



**Your Local Stress-free  
Remodeling Experts**



# **Stress-Free Kitchen Remodeling Ebook**

**Everything you need to know  
about the basics of kitchen remodeling.**

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# INTRODUCTION

While remodeling or repairing your kitchen, you will learn very fast that there are many different plans, experience, tools and skills you need to have to get it done. So where do you even start when you are renovating your kitchen? Luckily, you made it to the right place.

At Valor Home Services, we are the experts in renovating, repairing and remodeling kitchens. In fact, we hand-selected and trained the current remodelers we have on our team. We always strive for not only the best but to provide you with a stress-free experience.

To make your life a little bit easier, we made this guide as a quick overview of everything you need to know about kitchen remodeling.

**This eBook will introduce you to the basics of kitchen remodeling. It's nice to have a guide as well as inspiration to help you with all your renovation needs. That's why we created this eBook to help you along the way.**

# The Do's & Don'ts of Remodeling Your Kitchen

After bathroom remodels, kitchen remodels are the next ones to hit our list. And, it makes sense because you do so much in this area. From cooking to entertaining, it is a room with some of the most foot traffic. And since you spend so much time there, you want to make sure it is up to your standards. To help you with your next renovation, we listed the dos and don'ts of remodeling your kitchen.

## Do Create a Budget

Before you do any remodeling project around your house, you need to create a budget. HomeAdvisor and HGTV explain that the average cost to remodel a kitchen is about \$13,000 to \$35,000. It can be lower or higher depending on the size of your kitchen, what all needs done, the supplies you want and the contractor you hire. If you give us a call today, we can give you an estimate of how much it would cost us to do your kitchen. Plus, we also have many different offers to help lower the cost.

## Don't Forget Storage Options

The kitchen holds many different gadgets, appliances, utensils and more. With all of these items, you need to find someplace to put them all. That is where storage options come to play. Luckily, there are so many different ways you can store things in your kitchen — jars, canisters, baskets, shelves, cabinets, closets. etc.

## Do Consider Your Space

While you may have these awesome dreams and expectations, you need to be realistic with the space you have. One of the first things you or your contractor needs to do is measure your kitchen. You need to figure out the dimensions, so you know the size of items you can fit in it. This will lower your chances of mistakes as well as cut down on time.

## Don't Give Up on Counter Space

One of the biggest mistakes people make while redoing their kitchen is forgetting about counter space. You never want to give up on it. You need to have enough space to not only hold all your appliances and gadgets, but room to also cook, chop and any other tasks you need to do on your counter. If you are worried you do not have enough counter space, we recommend adding a rolling island. You can move it to wherever fits your kitchen the best; plus, you can move it around if you want a more open concept.

## Do Think About Lighting

Lighting plays a huge role in your kitchen. It helps you see what you are doing and how well your food is cooking as well as sets the mood. You want your kitchen to have ample amounts of lighting — windows, lights over ovens and stoves, lights under or inside cabinets, lights illuminating workspaces and eating areas and any other dimly lighted spot.



### **Don't Wait Until the End for Your Appliances**

Do not wait until the end of your remodel to pick out your appliances. Instead, have a solid idea of what you want from the very beginning. Some flooring, cabinetry and countertops look better with a specific color of appliances like stainless steel. If you need help picking everything out, we recommend working with an interior designer or decorator. We can even refer you out to a few!

### **Do Stay Clear of Corners**

There are many different things that open and close in the kitchen — cabinets, refrigerator, pantries, dishwasher, oven, etc. And the one thing you do not want to happen is having a wall or corner that blocks the item from opening up properly. To avoid this, our best advice is to stay clear of all corners. While measuring everything, make sure to consider door clearance as well as swing space to make sure that doors operate fully and do not bang against each other.

### **Don't Do it Alone**

The one thing that we want you to get out of doing a kitchen remodel is that you should never do it alone. If you do not have the supplies, equipment, knowledge or expertise, you will cause more damage and elongate renovation times. And, we all know the kitchen is one of the most important rooms of the house; therefore, you need it to be operational as soon as possible. The best way to stay on time and reduce your chances of major mistakes is to work with a knowledgeable team of remodelers.

# 5 Different Kinds of Kitchen Islands

## 01 Base Cabinet

A common kitchen island that many homeowners have is the base cabinet. A base cabinet is two or three cabinets pushed together with a stone countertop placed on top. This is the perfect kitchen island to create if you have resources that you do not want to waste. This type of kitchen island is fairly affordable. All you would need is to get someone to help you cut the countertop to fit and install the entire project.

## 02 Rolling Cart

A rolling cart is not necessarily a kitchen island, but it definitely counts as one, especially if you have a smaller kitchen. This portable prep station is perfect for any homeowner who wants a kitchen island, but cannot fit one in their kitchen. Rolling kitchen carts range in sizes, colors, designs and prices. We recommend searching around online before purchasing one.

## 03 L-Shaped

Do you want extra storage spaces as well as a huge kitchen island? Then, you need to consider an L-shaped one. This type of island is perfect for any homeowner who is a chef, baker or enjoys cooking. You can fit many different seating options and prep and cook with ease. L-shaped kitchen islands are bulky and do not work in smaller kitchens.

## 04 Curved

Curved kitchen islands add personality or a fun visual effect to your kitchen. This type of kitchen island, just like the L-Shaped island, provides ample amounts room, which creates enough space to prep and cook as well as place multiple seating options. Storage can be an issue for this type of counter, so make sure you design and install counters and drawers that work underneath it.

## 05 Galley

If you are going for an open concept in your kitchen, then you need to add a galley kitchen island. This type of island streamlines fluidity and efficiency. These types of islands effectively utilize storage options and work for bar-style seats. The only issue you may come across is that they come off a little boring, but a few decorations can spruce it up easily.



# Kitchen **Upgrades** You Need Know

Are you tired of an outdated, non-functional kitchen? With new technology and products, there are so many items that can make it easier to use and enjoy your kitchen. That's why we have a list for you! Check out these kitchen upgrades that you need to know about.

## **Install a Pull-Down Faucet**

Make washing your dishes easier with a pull-down faucet. A stiff-neck one makes you have limited movement in your sink. And, you want to be able to move around as easily as possible. Luckily, pull-down faucets install easily, thanks to their snap-in functions. Check out your local home improvement store for different options.

## **Swap Out Kitchen Hardware**

One of the easiest ways to upgrade your kitchen is by swapping out the hardware on cabinets and drawers. This one simple step can take an outdated kitchen and give it new life. If you want to keep things simple, we recommend measuring the current hardware and its nail/screw holes and find hardware that matches the existing holes.

## **Upgrade Light Fixtures**

Did you know that lighting fixtures go out of style? Many older homes have those fluorescent lightboxes instead of unique, cool or fun options. Upgrade your kitchen by installing new light fixtures. The great thing about the light boxes is that they are easy to take down and install new fixtures.

### **Upgrade to Smart Storage**

Your kitchen holds many supplies, equipment, utensils, cookware, food and more. You cannot have all these items on your counters. Instead, you need to invest in smart storage options. There are many different storage options that you add to your kitchen. You can even get creative with pegboards, shelving, pipes are more. We recommend checking out Pinterest or window shopping at different stores.

### **Add Backsplash & Lining**

Elevate the look of your bathroom with a backsplash on the walls and lining in the cabinets and drawers. If you want to add a backsplash, there are so many different options to choose from like ceramic tile, mosaic tile, decal or even paint. Just remember to clean grease and other stains every week from the backsplash. If you need help adding a new backsplash to your walls, give Valor Home Services a call. Cabinet and drawer lining helps keeps your cookware and utensils stay clean. Plus, it adds even more character to your kitchen, especially if you go with a lining with a design.

### **Install Undercabinet Lighting**

Under your cabinets can be dark and make it harder for you to see. Or maybe, you want additional lighting in your kitchen. One of the best ways to help is by installing undercabinet lighting. There are many different undercabinet lighting options out on the market like ones that connect to your light switches, battery-operated and automatic lights. Talk to your local electrician to find the best options for your kitchen.

### **Install a Water Filter**

Ditch the water bottles and water purifying pitchers and install a water purifying filter onto your kitchen sink. You can hire a contractor to help you install it, or you can place one yourself. If you decide to do it yourself, there are only two components you have to worry about — a plastic filter that goes under the sink and a compact gooseneck faucet. In the end, you will save money compared to buying water bottles constantly.





# Kitchen **Organization** Hacks

A room where many homeowners spend a good portion of time in is the kitchen. The kitchen holds all our food, kitchen appliances, utensils, dishwasher supplies and kitchenware. Since the kitchen holds so many items and has a lot of foot traffic, it can easily become unorganized and messy. Stay on top of this room with these kitchen organization hacks.

## **Labeled Canisters**

A great way to get rid of boxes, plastic bags and create more space in a kitchen is to use labeled canisters for food products. Foods that work the best in labeled jars are snacks, candies, sugar, flour, pasta and other perishable goods. The best canisters and labels to use are labels that are erasable like dry erase markers or chalk. For jars that you want to use the same products every time, you can stick on printable labels.

## **Recycling & Trash Bins**

Our trash cans get full fast if we do not organize the trash and recyclables (if you do recycle.) The best way to reduce the amount of garbage you throw away is to organize your recycling and trash bins. You can separate them by having two different containers labeled for each specific type of trash. It is always best to contact the HOA in your neighborhood to see what kind of trash and recycling bins that waste collection services will pick up. Many areas have restrictions and requirements when it comes to what waste services will collect.

## Refrigeration Storage

Between the food we buy and leftovers, our refrigerators get full. A full refrigerator makes it hard to find specific items or know when food expires. The best way to keep your food organized inside is to have refrigeration storage. You can place objects into these containers by categories like fruits, vegetables, dairy, snacks, leftovers or anything else in between. Storage organizers also help you keep track of how long these have been in the refrigerator. Keeping track of expiration dates makes cleaning easier for you

## Filing System for Pans

Baking sheets, muffin pans and cooking pans tend to get lost if stacked on top of each other. Avoid losing kitchenware by creating a filing system for these cooking items. A filing system will help you find every single pan every time. You can construct a filing system by creating dividers or setting things up vertically instead of horizontally.

## Drawer Dividers

Drawers in kitchens can get very unorganized, very quickly. We tend to shove many different objects in these drawers because they keep things off our counters. The best way to stay organized and in control is to use drawer dividers. Drawer dividers keep items like utensils, pens, paper clips and other small objects in place. You can find these dividers at your local supermarket or home store.

## Utilize the Top and Sides of Cabinets

For homes and apartments with small kitchens, you need to take advantage of all the areas in the room, including the top and sides of cabinets. You can store items that you do not frequently use at the top of cabinets and create organization systems on the sides of cabinets. On the sides of cabinets, you can store spices and other kitchenware.

## Add Shelves Into Cabinets

If you need more space in your cabinets, you can add additional shelving into each unit. Extra shelving can add more space for organizing plates and cups or even organize spices, so they are easier to see. There are many different kinds of shelving you can choose. We recommend these metal shelving racks.





# Kitchen Makeover Ideas

The next room in our makeover series is the kitchen. This room is one of the most used places in your home. Between cooking, eating, cleaning and hanging out, we spend a great deal of time in the area. If you are ready to change up your kitchen, check out these makeover ideas.

## Backsplash

An easy way of adding a new atmosphere to your kitchen through small details is a backsplash. A backsplash is an extension that goes on the wall so water or grease doesn't ruin the wall. They are typically in restrooms and kitchens, but you can install them wherever you like. There are many different designs of backsplash you can use. And, you can find these at your local home improvement store or online.

## New Appliances

Since you are giving your kitchen a makeover, it is also time to upgrade all the appliances in this room. These appliances include a dishwasher, oven, microwave, toaster, blenders and other bigger electronic items that you use. The best time to get any of these appliances with a discount is during Black Friday or other holiday seasons.

## Countertops

The countertops in kitchens are one of the first aspects that people notice. It is the place that is going to hold everything and where you are going to cook. Many people enjoy granite countertops, and what is great about granite is that it comes in a load of colors and styles. While you can install these by yourself, they tend to be heavy and require extra assistance. That's where we come in. We can install all your countertops and dispose of your old ones.

## Flooring

While many people do not think of flooring that often, it is the foundation of our home. Therefore, you are going to want the best floors for your home, including the kitchen. You can install any type of flooring you want, but there are specific ones that work the best in this area. In general, ceramic tile works best because it is moisture-proof and easy to clean. The next best option is waterproof flooring. Waterproof flooring can look like wood or tile but is 100% waterproof. So if your kitchen ever floods, you can dry them out and reinstall them. The third best option is hardwood flooring. But remember, it is not waterproof and does warp and damage if it does encounter water.

## Organization

Now that everything is in your kitchen, you can't forget about keeping it organized. You spent so much time and money that you want it to stay as pristine as possible. There are many ways to organize this room. You can keep items in containers, color-code, unique storage and more.

## Furniture

You do not necessarily have a lot of furniture in your kitchen, but you may have a table, chairs and stools. Some kitchens include their dining room, while others have nothing or a breakfast nook. Either way, you are going to want at least one kitchen table and at least four chairs. You can find this furniture online, in-store or at garage sales.

## Decor

Once you have everything renovated, it is time to decorate! The easiest way to start decorating is to pick a theme for your kitchen. Many homeowners go with wine, sweets, baking, coffee, Italian, French and many different ideas. You can find these pieces at a store online or in-person, flea markets, Etsy, garage sales and antique stores.





## ABOUT VALOR HOME SERVICES

At Valor Home Services, we change how you shop for your kitchen remodeling needs. Instead of wasting your time going to one brick-and-mortar store after another, we bring the store to you. Our mobile showroom has samples ranging from flooring, fixtures, faucets and more.

By eliminating the need to travel from store to store to get the best deals and variety, we save you time and money by bringing it all to your doorstep. And then, if you need bathroom remodeling, kitchen remodeling, basement finishing, flooring, hardwood floor refinishing or small projects taken care of, too, you can provide you with a stress-free remodeling or renovation experience with one of our skilled experts.

With our quick, expert renovation and helpful, knowledgeable staff, we make it easy for you to get the right kitchen at the right price. Guaranteed.

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