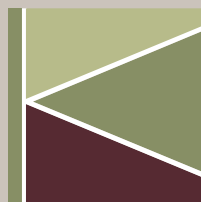




A Practical Guide to Remodeling your Kitchen



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About this Book

Is this book right for me?

Considering a kitchen remodeling project, but not sure where to start? Do you have cabinets that just aren't your style, need more storage, or want to maximize your kitchen's organization but don't want to do a full tear-out?

If you have these or other kitchen remodeling questions, you've come to the right place!

Why we're writing this book

At Kitchen Saver, we are passionate about helping you improve the most valuable room in your home: your kitchen.

Kitchen Saver is a customer service company first and foremost, and a kitchen remodeler second. Our company understands a kitchen renovation can be a daunting undertaking, which is why we created a renovation experience that guides the customer through the entire process. We pride ourselves on being completely accessible and strive to never leave our customers questioning.

Over the last 30 years, we've accrued the knowledge and expertise necessary to "write the book" on kitchen remodeling. In this book, we share some of the advice we regularly give to homeowners. We are proud of our longevity in an industry with lots of competition. It's a testimony to our expertise and the way we treat our customers' homes as if they were our own. Every project is installed by our own company-employed craftsmen—no subcontractors—many of whom have more than 20 years of experience. We believe that combining great product lines with an expert team is the only way to go.

We hope this book will help you as you begin planning your kitchen remodeling project, and enable you to ask the right questions when choosing a remodeling company. After all, you're putting your most valued possession—your home—in the hands of that remodeler.



Kitchen Remodeling: Plan for Function and Style

A kitchen renovation is about more than just updating and aesthetics. Modern kitchens are the perfect place for not only meal preparation, but also informal family gatherings. Additionally, if you think you may sell your home, buyers consistently rank updated kitchens as a top priority, so kitchen remodels offer an excellent return on investment. These factors and more are different for every homeowner. The following materials will help guide you through the decision-making process to determine the ideal remodeling solution for you.

The scope of a project is the range of changes that your update will include.

Decide the scope

Once you've committed to updating your kitchen, the first step is to decide the scope of your project. Does the basic layout and design of your current kitchen work for you? Do you need more space? Is there one particular element or corner that needs improvement? Or, do you just want a facelift for your cabinets to give the room a fresh look?



Here are three different levels to consider for a kitchen remodel:

Minor: Are you already happy with your current layout? Or constrained by space and budget? Cabinet refacing may be the answer. Combined with new countertops and modern storage solutions, cabinet refacing can change the look, feel and function of your kitchen at a fraction of the cost of a complete remodel. As an added bonus, you'll be without a kitchen for a much shorter time.

Moderate: You may make some changes (like adding an island) to the design of the room to make it more functional, but the overall layout of the room will stay the same, and the kitchen will stay in the existing space. You will likely invest in additional cabinets, countertops, flooring, and appliances. Refacing existing cabinets can expand your budget to allow for organizational accessories, upgraded lighting or a backsplash.

Major: A complete redesign. You may consider expanding your kitchen into a seldom-used dining room or other area, rearranging appliances, adding or removing walls. The modern kitchen often doubles as a family gathering place, and an expanded kitchen might include a designated counter area for informal dining or even a computer work station.

Understand that you won't have full access to your kitchen even if you're planning a seemingly small project, such as cabinet refacing, so you'll need to think about how your family can function without a kitchen during the project.

In thinking about the scope of your project, consider that small changes can make a big impact, so you may not need to start from zero. No need to worry if you feel unprepared, as our Kitchen Consultants will walk you through your options and help customize a plan to meet your goals and your budget. We've prepared this overview of the process so you'll know what's ahead, and will be able to make the most out of every opportunity.



Step by Step to Your New Kitchen

The first step towards a kitchen update that you'll enjoy for many years is to identify **WHY** you want a change, and writing it down. You can keep your ideas and plans in a binder, journal, or document them on your computer. But **write it down**. This eyes-on-the-prize approach will keep you on track to your remodeling goals.

The second most important thing to remember after **write it down** is **this is your kitchen**. Recognizing how **YOU** use your kitchen is vital to planning a remodel that makes the most of your efforts. If you liked everything about your current space, you wouldn't be updating!

At the end of this book, you'll find workbook pages to assist you in creating your own, personalized Kitchen Plan. You can print these pages or fill them out in your PDF reader as you go through the material. When you're done following along, you should be ready to get started and make things happen.

So, grab your Kitchen Plan (after page 29) on paper or screen, write down why you want a change at the top, and let's get started!

The workbook pages for these exercises begin after page 29. You can print them out (choose page range 30-42) or type directly into the fields in a PDF reader such as Acrobat or Apple Preview.

Needs



With your remodeling goal in mind, take some time to identify what's important to you.

The two aspects of a design that meets your goals are needs and uses. **Needs** are what you do in your kitchen. **Uses** are how you use your kitchen. Of course, needs come first, so start with a clear page for brainstorming.

To get an inventory of what you **need**, consider what you currently go to your kitchen for.

- What do you do every day? Coffee or tea? Breakfast bar, cereal or eggs?
- What do you use most? Are you a gourmet cook with a lot of special equipment?

- Are there many cooks in your family?
- What do you do that you love? Do you bake, can, or entertain guests?
- Do you use a recycling or compost container as well as trash can?
- Do you have enough outlets for small appliances and charging phones?
- Are there repairs needed?

Go ahead and fill up page B with your ideas. Then rank your items: select 5 (or 3, or 6) of the most important functions or needs for improvement.

Next, go back to the first page of your Kitchen Plan and write your ranked list of needs directly underneath your kitchen remodeling goal.

How you use your kitchen should be at the heart of your kitchen's design. Design isn't only about looks; it can also make cooking and cleaning a breeze! Careful planning during the kitchen design process can prevent frustration down the road.

It all starts with your kitchen's layout.

A layout is a combination of the size and shape of your kitchen space, and the placement of utility connections and appliances. Take a look at the layout to either create or preserve a functional work pattern.

You might have heard of a **"work triangle,"** which is the path of most travel between the sink, stove and fridge. These spots are the "points" of the "work triangle." Consider centering cabinet organizers within arm's reach of these triangle points, such as locating your spice racks near the stove. Simple kitchen design ideas like these can increase your access to needed items without taking you away from your task.

As you plan, also consider thinking outside the triangle. Since the 1940s, the triangle concept has dictated the design of most kitchens in America. Now that kitchens have morphed into multipurpose rooms rather than spaces for just cooking and eating, the concept of zones has become more popular. With zones, you can have separate sinks



for prep and cleanup; dedicated areas for cooking and baking; a specialized range and oven in different locations; counter space that can serve as an informal dining table; and even a nook with a desk that can accommodate a computer.

Don't forget to jot these notes in your Kitchen Plan! On page C, write down what you like about your current layout and what you might want to change. Do you notice a pattern of how you move from sink to stove, from refrigerator to counter? Are there any obstacles to that pattern? How could it be improved?

Once you've clarified what you do where in your kitchen, it's time to look at **how you use your kitchen**. Your way of accomplishing daily tasks determines what you will need from your kitchen remodel.

Think about how you complete the tasks that you wrote down as "Needs." Notate which of your cabinets take extra time to reach, dig through, or to locate what you need. These cabinets are your time-wasters (and back-strainers!), and *can be improved* with cabinet optimizers. Kitchen Saver can build custom organizers for cabinets that aren't standard sizes. Never underestimate the big impact of a small change!

Bring a measuring tape into your kitchen, and measure how far is comfortable to reach and how much space you use. Write on

your sheet the reaching distance that is far enough to be irritating to you, and how much counter you need while you're cooking.

Where do you like to stand when you work? Would you rather sit? If so, where? What items need to be stored close to the stove, or the sink? How would you like to improve your storage options? Is there something that is always in the way? Is there a particular tool that just doesn't have a home?

Add those ideas, problem spots and comfortable distances to [page D](#) of your Kitchen Plan, and keep track of them! Notes about desired layout changes, storage problems, and the measurements of your ideal spaces go right after the list of your needs.



If you plan to stay in your home long term, consider how your future self, partner or guests might be using the kitchen. Clever planning now can save you from an extra remodel later. Consider:

- **Visibility:** Ample light and glass doors help you find what you're looking for, especially for those with difficulties with sight or memory.
- **Reduce reaching:** keep appliances, outlets, faucets and as much storage as possible within arm's reach. Storage optimizers can let you do this without having to replace cabinets.
- **Walkways:** are they safe from slippage and wide enough for wheelchairs?
- **Seated space:** kitchen desks, tables, nooks and other seated space can double as a spot for cooking if prolonged standing becomes an issue.

You'll notice that those adjustments (more light, easy reaching, seated space, room to move) benefit you now as well as provide for the future.

Make notes about your ideas for accessibility needs on [page E](#) of your Kitchen Plan as well.



*When designing a kitchen, which you'll be using several times a day for as long as you're in your home, these little details are worth their weight in gold. Kitchen Saver can help you cut little frustrations out at the beginning, so **you'll be in love with your kitchen for decades.***



Now is the time to break out your wish list. You've covered basic functions and needed replacements or repairs. Now you can focus on improving your experience of your space. Here is where you "Dream Big" and unlock your kitchen's potential.

Start with [page F](#) in your Kitchen Plan with the heading "Opportunities."

Opportunities to optimize: What if you could use every bit of your space, floor-to-ceiling? What if you didn't have to get on hands and knees to reach the back of a cabinet? Note these unused spaces, you may be able to make use of them later.

Opportunities to save: Make a list of things you wouldn't change about your kitchen (maybe you love your refrigerator, or your cabinets are still robust). This gives you an accounting of the concrete resources you have. Keeping or reusing elements of your existing kitchen, including basic cabinet

structure, can save you a significant amount of time and money. We'll consider specifics later in this book when we tackle methods.

Opportunities for beauty: This is where you really develop your idea of how your kitchen will look. Since you've already done the brainstorming about function and space, it's finally time for the visual brainstorming.

Visual Brainstorming is when you collect a bunch of pictures that appeal to or inspire you, and use them to make a plan. You can collect your pictures on paper, on your computer, or even with your phone camera. Choosing inspiration first lets you open your mind to *all* of the things you like. You might surprise yourself with what you like after seeing the possibilities.

Once you have a collection of inspiring images, take a sharp eye and compare the designs to find what they have in common.

Opportunities

If there is an element of your kitchen that is on your priority list to change already, look at that first. Compare lighting, cabinet style, cabinet color, countertops, layout, and appliances in kitchens you like. Are most of them lit with track lights, or do the majority have under-cabinet lighting? Take notes on these features.

In your Kitchen Plan, take special note of the features that appeal to you most from your inspirational research. Keep a list of the aspects that are most important to you, and which would be “nice to have.” There is space provided on [page F](#) for this list.



Don't know where to start? Check out the [Kitchen Saver Style Guide category](#) for different kitchen styles and looks, browse our [gallery of completed kitchens](#), or connect to our idea boards on [Pinterest](#). There, we group kitchen images by style, color, and more, so it can be a great place to start gathering ideas.

Exploring the Options



Now that you have thought through some broad ideas about what you want in your new kitchen, it's time to look at some specifics of how to accomplish your remodeling goals. What methods you have to choose from vary according to the kind of changes you need, the resources you have available, and your desired budget.

Kitchen remodeling changes fall into one or more of these categories: *Structural*, *Functional* and *External*. Take notes on your desired changes starting on [page G](#).

Structural changes are big ticket items that can make a big difference. Examples include: opening a kitchen to another room, or installing a ramp or a skylight. These significantly affect visibility, available space and ease of use.

Smaller structural changes like replacing decayed or damaged wood, adding a cabinet, or installing railings are on the more affordable end of this scale. If you do not need to open any walls or windows or make any repairs, you can keep your resources for the next step.

Functional change affects how your structures (like your cabinets or space) work, without changing their shape. Smaller changes to improve accessibility with optimizers are done here, and also changes like adding or removing cabinet doors, or switching to roll-out shelves instead of stationary shelves.

External changes affect the outer look of your cabinets, counters, and walls. This is where you will have the most options and flexibility. With a wide range of both natural materials and high quality replicas, there are many ways to get the appearance you want within your budget. For example, new and custom kitchen cabinetry are at the high end of the cost spectrum, and cabinet refacing is at the most affordable. Instead of replacing all of your cabinets, you can combine methods by refacing most of them and adding new cabinets only where needed.

When it comes to the exteriors, the value is in durability. Long warranties are a good indicator of a strong product.

Exploring the Options

Cabinets

Cabinets are the dominant element in any kitchen, simply because of the vast area they cover, much of it at eye level. The first issue to confront is whether to replace or reface your existing cabinets.

Replacing is always more expensive, and you can get quality and beauty in very little time if you opt for cabinet refacing instead. When your cabinets are refaced, your contractor removes your existing doors and drawer fronts, covers the cabinet boxes in a new matching veneer (which can be either laminate or wood) and installs new doors and drawer fronts. While the cabinet fronts are being changed, your contractor can make modifications to accommodate a microwave, lazy susan, roll-out shelves, or other conveniences that weren't part of your storage plan previously.

Refacing usually takes just a few days, and there are many color and style options to choose from. Cabinet refacing can be completed without disturbing countertops and does not require other changes to your kitchen if you're not ready to take on other projects. Refacing is definitely the best—and often the only—choice if you've just had expensive new countertops put in and suddenly your old cabinets don't look so great.

If you'd like to totally replace your cabinets, you will find a variety of quality and price



levels. The differences here are due to choice of material, choice of hardware, and how the cabinet box is constructed. Most cabinet manufacturers offer a good-better-best series of construction choices, and all three may look exactly the same. Make sure you understand what you're getting when you go in for full cabinet replacement.

Because Kitchen Saver offers a combination approach to refacing where we can reface and install custom built cabinets, our customers have the best of both worlds. You can reface your existing cabinets, saving money, but also have the option of adding new cabinets only where you need them. We can make any size cabinet, allowing you to optimize every inch of your kitchen.

Exploring the Options



Materials (Wood/Laminate)

Cabinet doors and drawer fronts will be the defining feature of your new kitchen. How your cabinets are made, and from what, determines the strength and lifespan of your kitchen investment, as well as the overall look.

There are several high-quality synthetic kitchen cabinet door materials on the market today, with laminates being the most popular. Past synthetic products have not been very sturdy, but new developments in the industry have brought forward materials of a much higher caliber. Today there are sturdier materials and processes that go into a product called DLV, or Decorative Laminate Veneer. One thing to consider when in your decision making process is that not all laminates are created equally. Below is a breakdown of the two most popular laminates used in cabinet refacing.

Differences between RTF and DLV Laminate:

- RTF or Thermofoil doors are finished doors that were entirely literally laminated with glue, a process that could be undone in the course of normal kitchen heat exposure and use.

- DLV (Decorative Laminate Veneer) fuses medium-density fiberboard, a strong base material also called MDF, with panels of melamine and adds a layer of protective resin for a finish that can outperform some natural woods. DLV doors are solid doors assembled like wood doors out of pieces of MDF fused with a laminate veneer finish of your choice. These new products are sturdy and a solid investment that will last for many years.

Laminates are known for their smooth and glossy sheen, which makes them a great choice for contemporary, modern and retro kitchen styles. However, with the new textures that are now available, traditional and rustic styles can take advantage of DLV cabinet doors too — just don't be surprised if no one guesses they're not wood!

Kitchen styles are more strongly shaped by cabinet door style than by material, so if you're considering traditional, rustic and country looks, laminate could be your best option for cost-effectively reaching your goal.

Wood is a very popular cabinet door material choice, known for its durability and beautiful look. If you want a particular

Exploring the Options

wood grain or the multi-dimensional glow of a natural product, there's no replacement for that. But, if you want the look of wood without the natural color changes that occurs over time or just want a lower cost without sacrificing beauty or durability, laminate refacing materials are worth considering. Laminate is more difficult to repair than wood, but it is less susceptible to some of the kinds of damage that wood is vulnerable to, and it will stay strong and beautiful for a long time.

Your wood options are limited only by Mother Nature—if it grows, it can be made into a cabinet. Cherry, maple, and oak are popular and traditional choices. Your choice here will largely depend on how much grain you like (less with maple, more with oak). The combinations of stains and glazes are endless. Keep in mind, though, that as a natural product, wood has imperfections and color variations. Most people consider this part of the charm of wood, but if a uniform appearance is critical, consider a laminate door or painted finish instead.

Islands are another way to add more work surface, storage and functionality to your kitchen. The brilliance of a kitchen island is found in the almost endless versatility they provide. From baking space to eating space to storage, entertaining, or extending the usefulness of the kitchen with extra sinks, appliances, or even cook surfaces. Adding an island may help you meet the needs you have identified in your Kitchen Plan.

Even if you have plenty of kitchen storage and room to work, or don't necessarily

need any additional entertaining or serving space, a kitchen island can add beauty to your home with the many decorative molding options. As a literal centerpiece to your kitchen, an island can put your kitchen's style in the spotlight, or allow you to add a further design element complimenting or contrasting the rest of the kitchen look. Kitchen islands are also a great place to feature a distinctive countertop slab.

Take notes on the materials you'd like to consider on [page H](#) in your Kitchen Plan.



Thinking about the Details

Your Kitchen Plan should now contain your overall goal, your needs and how you use your kitchen, notes on the layout of the space, visual inspiration sources, and ideas about methods and materials you want in your new kitchen. Now it's time to consider the final details of your plan, which you can note starting on [page H](#).

You might have noticed that we haven't mentioned things like backsplash, external hardware, paint and countertops. They are a large part of how your kitchen will look, but, when push comes to shove, they can wait. If there's room in your remodeling budget to do it all at once, go for it! But if you're still not sure how everything will fit in, these are the things that are easy to update later or even DIY.

Painting: This is a low-cost element of kitchen remodeling. If you don't intend to change your kitchen walls, you might not have to worry about this at all. If you do, you might get a better feel for what will work for you once your cabinets and countertop are installed.

Storage Space: You don't have to move walls or add whole new cabinets to increase storage space in your kitchen. If you need more room for your kitchen's contents, accessories like pull-out shelves or roll-out drawers can let you access and use space you didn't know you had!

There are other storage options besides optimizers like these: extending your cabinets to the ceiling or adding toe-kick drawers at the bottom can squeeze even more storage into a kitchen that can't be expanded. These options aren't just for folks who want to stretch their dollars; they are often included in big-budget kitchens for the convenience alone.



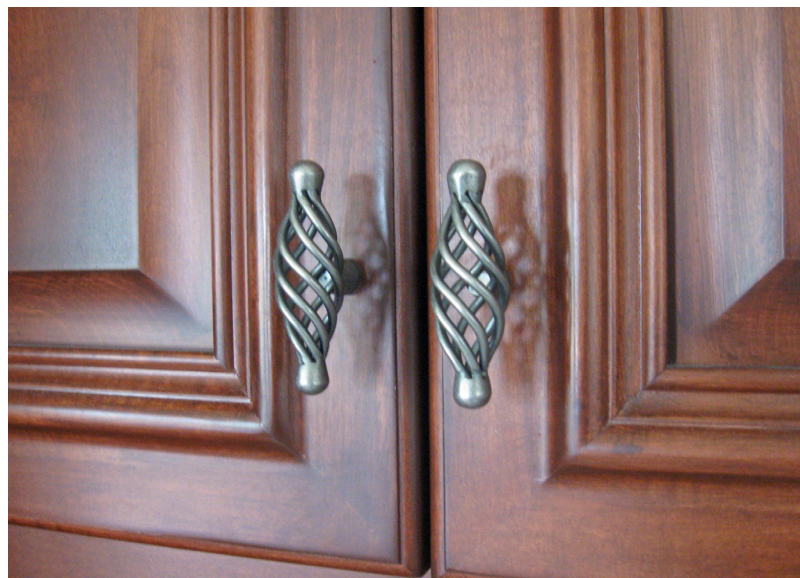
Thinking about the Details

Cabinet hardware: Hardware is another factor that can have a dramatic impact on the look of your kitchen, as well as the cost of your remodel. There are many materials to choose from, and there are dozens of designs and colors available. Upper end cabinets come with hardware like soft-closing doors (if you've got doorslammers in the family) and full-extension drawer glides. Age-in-Place easy-grip handles may be a good choice for a long-term design. Kitchen Saver can help you make these decisions to fit your budget, with options ranging from keeping existing hardware or drawer-boxes to finding new solutions to transform the overall look.

Backsplashes can make a splash by themselves, or quietly let your cabinet and counter choices take center stage. Materials range widely, from marble slabs to careful painting. Tile is a classic material because it is flexible, low-maintenance and durable. It can also be affordable, depending on your choices. If your budget is very tight, a simple coat of easy-to-clean paint could be all you need.

Countertops: After cabinets, countertops attract the most attention. Regardless of the surface you choose, you can customize the look of your countertops with decorative edges. If you're refacing, this can either take your transformation farther, or let you space out your investments. When you're making your countertop decision, think about how long you want it to last, and how mindful your kitchen's users will be to take care of the surfaces. A more expensive solution could end up saving you money in the long run.

The countertop itself is one big option! If you're holding out for the perfect piece of granite or the Corian you want doesn't really fit in your budget right now, you could choose a less expensive material for now and upgrade later. You could even skip the middle upgrade entirely. It depends on whether you want an



Note these items on [page I](#).

Thinking about the Details



all-at-once transformation or are willing to go bit-by-bit to get exactly what you want. It is a little-known fact that it is easier to get counters after your cabinets rather than the other way around. Sometimes it helps to have your cabinets all finished to get an idea of how a particular countertop might look with them. This also gives you time to shop around for vendors, hunt down the perfect slab, or just space out your investments. Don't think of this one as a budget limitation.

Lighting: Proper lighting can make a dreary kitchen bright and turn dark corners into functional space. This is the element that makes all the others really shine; after all, how else will you see it all? But, lighting does not have to be done all at once. If you need to pace yourself, some aspects of lighting can be put off. For example, under cabinet lighting should go in with the cabinets themselves, but selecting your kitchen's overhead light fixtures can be done anytime.

Appliances: Most remodeling contractors don't sell kitchen appliances, but your choices will impact everything the contractor does. The contractor has to allow for adequate space and plumbing/electrical considerations when designing your kitchen, so you must be clear about which appliances you want in your kitchen and their exact location and dimensions. Often, you will shop for the appliances yourself and your contractor will install them for you. When shopping for appliances, look for the Energy Star label as a sign of energy efficiency.

Flooring: Flooring is the final big piece of the kitchen puzzle. Since kitchens are high-traffic areas, durability and maintenance considerations are important. Don't forget the noise factor either—some surfaces are noisier than others. A good contractor will also be able to guide you on this selection.

Note these items on [page J](#).

Resources



When it comes to kitchen remodeling, your resources are what you *have*, as well as what you can *spend*. Budgeting is seeing how far you can make your resources go.

The first step of the budgeting process is to assess your resources, to come up with a starting place for your kitchen remodeling project. Once you know what your resources are, you can prioritize your plan to make the best use of them.

Your basic resources are saved money, in-place assets, home equity, and flexible funding options. It's a good idea to speak to a professional about the different kinds of funding available and what is the best option for getting you a kitchen that will meet your goals.

Make a list of the resources mentioned above on [page K](#) of your Kitchen Plan, so you're ready with this information when it comes time to schedule a consultation.

Next, take another look at your remodeling goal at the [top of your Kitchen Plan](#). WHY are you remodeling? Keeping that in mind as you consider your financial options will ensure that you get what you're looking for, or a "return on investment."

At Kitchen Saver, we work with a broker-type financing company that can search and find funding for all sorts of situations. All of our pricing is a la carte, and is calculated with a proprietary computer program, making it easy for our consultants to pick and choose options that meet your budget constraints.

Return on investment comes in two forms: *resale value* and *quality of life*. A remodel prior to putting a home up for sale would reward budgeting for resale value. For a kitchen meant to last you into your retirement years, resale might be less of a concern, and preserving your quality of life could be your primary focus.

Resale Value: If you're planning to move, look into what you can expect to get back. The scope of your project can make a difference, but not in the direction you may expect! While kitchen remodeling as a whole can bring you from 65-75% return on investment, minor remodels actually bring in an 8% higher return on investment than major ones.

However, consider that if you exceed the quality of your neighborhood, your area suffers from foreclosures or a strong buyer's market, or you plan to move within 5 years, you might only get 50 cents back on each dollar. We strongly suggest consulting with a real estate professional before considering a remodel for resale.

Quality of Life: This is the value a remodeling project can save you in time and energy. Utilizing unused space to create more storage and installing cabinet optimizers can make your everyday routine much easier for a daily return on investment. These adjustments



can also enable you to live in your own home longer and prevent you from facing a move or another remodel in your later years.

Take some notes on your desired return on investment in your Kitchen Plan on [page K](#). Compare these thoughts to your overall goal, and the resources you have available for your new kitchen.

Questions to Ask:

Kitchens have a lot hidden costs. There is a whole lot of plumbing under that sink, a whole bunch of parts and skills involved in moving electricity, and moving any sort of wall or utility is a pretty big deal. Where your home is located will influence your costs as well. Keep a list of questions on [page K](#) of your Kitchen Plan about these and other issues that may come up.

- Consider your in-place assets, the parts of your kitchen that don't need adjusting, and where refacing may be a good option. If you hadn't identified them during your planning process, you may want to take another look now.
- If you're replacing your cabinets, consider donating your old kitchen! To further our commitment to community outreach and earth-friendly practices, Kitchen Saver partners with Habitat for Humanity's Restore program. Whenever we have a customer who is discarding appliances or cabinetry, with the customer's approval, we coordinate a pick-up by Habitat for Humanity. The customer can donate other household items as well, and the write-off could help balance your costs at the same time as helping others.
- Are you planning for the time you may be living without a kitchen during the remodel? If the duration is short, the kitchen may still be usable in the evenings, but that will vary by contractor. If you're thinking of buying lunches instead of making them at home and going out to eat every night, you might want to account for that in your budget plans.



Putting Your Plan into Action



You've done your research, you know what you need and want, and you have your Kitchen Plan in hand. Now you're ready to talk to a professional and start getting some estimates!

Hire a Pro

A kitchen remodel can be a daunting project, but it can transform how you experience your entire home. Working with a professional to get the right mix of function and style with cabinetry, appliances and countertops will take your project from overwhelming to "can do!"

You have many choices to make when you're planning a home remodeling project. You could try the DIY way, hire a neighbor or the friend of a friend, or, as we recommend, work with a trusted remodeling company.

We encourage you to check out online review sites as you research remodeling professionals, and look for information on licensing, insurance, and status with organizations like the Better Business Bureau. A licensed professional with a history of success and accountability is worth every penny. A little homework on this step can prevent heartache down the road.

Kitchen Saver has served the Mid-Atlantic area for over thirty years and we are proud of our reputation for both craftsmanship and customer service.

We are the only Mid-Atlantic refacing company that doesn't subcontract. All of our kitchen consultants and installers are employees, which means we can better control all of the services we offer. Our employees are company-trained, must pass a drug and background check, and are licensed and insured.

We pride ourselves on our consistently high customer ratings so we hold our consultants and installers to high standards. The core of our training focuses on treating our customer's homes as if they are their own.

Putting Your Plan into Action

“It’s great when you can go back to a company after 20 years and realize that the same service is just as great as it was before.”

—Antonio P.

“It’s hard to explain how thrilled and excited we are with our renovated kitchen by Kitchen Saver. With so many false promises by service providers these days, our experience with this company was exceptional from beginning to end... I totally LOVE my kitchen, and I have made that statement to myself and my husband each and every day since the project was completed!” —Cheryl L.

“Great value. Well informed. Professional. Skilled, Courteous, and Friendly Installation. Cabinets are beautiful. Highly recommend.”
—Richard B.

“Everything about dealing with Kitchen Saver was positive, from the personnel, to the quality of materials and workmanship. We have been very satisfied with the installation as well as the follow up. We would HIGHLY recommend these people!” —Carol D.



Before



After

Putting Your Plan into Action

The Consultation

Part of having a consultant come to your home for an estimate is so they can assess your individual situation and give you a specific evaluation or quote. The rest is for you to get a feel for the company. How do they communicate? Do they hide limitations or are they frank with you? Can you be confident that your goals will be their goals? It's important to be confident in your remodeling professional, so ask all of your questions, which you can keep track of on [page L](#) in your Kitchen Plan.

From time to time, we receive a call from someone who made the wrong decision on their remodeling contractor. While it's usually caused by things like shopping on price alone, hiring an unlicensed contractor or any number of other oversights, the result is a project poorly done. Worse, it can result in an incomplete project and a contractor who won't show up or return calls.

It's almost impossible to find a reputable company willing to correct or complete someone else's work, so making the right decision up front is critical.



Where some kitchen companies charge up to \$500 for an appointment, Kitchen Saver provides a free in-home consultation. We bring all the samples to your home so you can see how the actual colors and materials will work with your existing lighting and décor. We offer a variety of times including evenings and weekends to accommodate even the busiest of schedules.

Kitchen Saver tailors the consultation to your needs. We don't approach our appointments as you may have experienced with other home improvement companies. Before jumping into measuring the kitchen, our consultants are trained to sit down with you and talk about your wants and needs, before offering suggestions. Our consultants' main purpose is to help you through the decision-making process, so that the end result is a kitchen you will absolutely love.

Putting Your Plan into Action

“Kitchen Saver made the process of renovating/updating my kitchen easy and painless. Every step of the process was smooth and our kitchen renovation was completed exactly as quoted. My friends were in shock that this transformation could happen so quickly. We were so impressed with the craftsmanship and professionalism of all who worked inside our kitchen. Every single person did an excellent job and was lovely to work with—including the sales and administrative team.” —Jody G.



“We are very pleased with the final product but more importantly we are more than pleased with how professional everyone involved with Kitchen Saver is. We had two other estimates for the same job but chose KS because you seemed to have a more detailed approach taking the time to do it right.” —Glenn B.



Kitchen Saver is proud to be defined by the homeowners we have helped and the principles that guide us to remain one of the most-trusted names in kitchen remodeling. We are:

- Committed to clearly communicating with our customers before, during and after every project
- Compelled to conduct ourselves with integrity
- Certain to never compromise quality or honesty
- Bound by ethical standards and sound construction practices
- Privileged to employ our own craftsmen
- Determined to exceed our customer’s expectations
- Passionate about the work we do

Installation

Once you have chosen your remodeler, it's time to prepare for installation!

Every kitchen installation will involve some sort of interruption to your daily living. It wouldn't be much of a remodel if nothing changed, right?

The best way to deal with the interruption is to prepare. Some remodeling and refacing companies will have your kitchen cleaned up for moderate use every night. This depends on both the company and the work you are having done. Find a small area in your home to re-purpose as your "kitchen nook" during the remodel. Set it up and use it for at least one day before you need it. That way, you can discover and grab everything you forgot before your kitchen is covered with dust shields.

If you need to empty your cabinets, for replacing or interior refacing, that can present opportunities. There's no better time than during a kitchen renovation to finally organize what you've been storing.

The amount of time and degree of preparedness you need will depend upon the scope of remodeling you are having done. A simple no-frills cabinet refacing can take as little as three days.

Putting Your Plan into Action



Tearing out a wall, replacing cabinets and moving utilities can all add months. Ask your remodeling professional how long to expect to be without your kitchen as well as what unforeseen events might prolong the process.

Take the time while you pack up your kitchen's contents to toss out anything expired. Set aside and give away any pans, utensils or non-perishable foods that you just haven't been using. No need to fill a new kitchen with old clutter. Only keep what you need, use and love!

Imagine complementing your upgraded kitchen cabinets and organizers with organized contents! Our [Pinterest board on kitchen organization](#) can help you get the most out of your cabinets, cupboards and pantry.

Putting Your Plan into Action

“Our experience with Kitchen Saver was awesome. Our installer, Devon, was amazing. He had our whole kitchen done in 3½ days and went above and beyond every day. If we wanted something fixed or changed, he easily did it...I can absolutely tell the difference between the quality of product and service of a custom company with NO subcontractors, versus a big box store. We will recommend Kitchen Saver enthusiastically!” —Lauren H.



At Kitchen Saver, we don't subcontract, and every job is handled in-house. Customers are given a "what to expect" sheet that explains the steps of the installation process with contact phone numbers. We have an install manager and assistant who oversee all projects. Within a couple of days of a contract being signed, we'll schedule a measure appointment with you, and introduce our install coordinator, your direct contact throughout the entire process. During the installation, a manager visits every job for a pop-up visit, and our install manager will call after completion to make sure you are completely satisfied.

The same installers are assigned to each job all the way to the end. We never leave a job or pull an installer from a job for another until the kitchen they are working on is completely finished. Our installers are trained to meticulously clean their work areas at the end of each day, so you can access your kitchen throughout the renovation process.

Before you know it, your new kitchen will be complete!

Putting Your Plan into Action



You've seen the Before, you've made it through the During, are you ready for the AFTER?!

Look over your completed Kitchen Plan worksheets. Are you excited about the possibilities? Can you imagine cooking in your new kitchen, with everything at your fingertips? We're ready to help you make your dreams come true!

On average, you will spend two and a half years of your life cooking, so shouldn't you love your kitchen?

To schedule your free in-home consultation, please give us a call at 1-844-806-3377 or visit our website, www.KitchenSaver.com.

"Kitchen Saver did a professional job with every aspect of our refacing. The design consultation gave us everything we needed to make decisions in one evening. Communication of schedule was timely. Installation was mindful of keeping the rest of the house clean." —Marjorie T.

"The entire experience exceeded our expectations. From the custom-built cabinets, the exceptional craftsmanship that goes into it, to the courteous and helpful nature of the employees." —Spencer C.

Kitchen Plan

Opportunities to optimize: write down ideas about where you can save space in your kitchen.

Opportunities to save: what elements would you like to keep as they are in your kitchen?

Opportunities for beauty: what do you want your new kitchen to look like? Take some time for *Visual Brainstorming* and note the elements you like best from your research here.

Continue with [page 13](#).



Kitchen Plan

Use this space to make notes about the scope of your remodeling plans. What **structural changes** do you want to make?

What **functional changes** are most important?

What **external changes** do you have in mind?

Continue with [page 14](#).



Kitchen Plan

3. Cabinet Hardware (see [page 18](#))

4. Backsplashes (see [page 18](#))

5. Countertop (see [page 18](#))

6. Lighting (see [page 19](#))



Kitchen Plan

Use this space to make a list of your **resources** for easy reference:

Consider saved money, in-place assets, home equity, and flexible funding options.

Continue with [page 21](#).

Now think about your desired **return on investment**. Make notes on resale value considerations and desired quality of life improvements.

Continue with [page 22](#).

Make a list here of **other questions** you have, and notes of possible hidden costs or assets.

Continue with [page 23](#).



