

Kitchen Remodel Timeline

First and foremost, your remodel timeline must be flexible. Certain steps have to occur in succession, or the order may change depending on the project scope, contractor availability and your schedule. Demolition, tear out, framing, plumbing, electrical, wall prep, paint, flooring, cabinet install, countertop install, decorative accents, appliances, and more can take longer than expected. If one step is postponed due to weather, illness, or damaged product, your entire timeline could be extended one or two weeks as you get new product and/or reschedule a contractor. **The key to keeping your sanity** is to know before the project starts that there may be hiccups, and be ready to flex when that happens. Below are typical time ranges for each phase. Use this as a reference as you plan. The two factors that affect a remodel timeline most heavily are the size of the kitchen and the project scope. Build in buffer time at several points and the remodel should go smoothly.



Planning: At Your Pace

Planning is really up to you. It can take years, weeks or days. The complexity of a plan depends heavily on the scope of your project. A good way to start is by contacting your kitchen designer to find out what to expect and where to start.



Finding a Contractor: At Your Pace

Take into consideration referrals, interviews, meetings, cost determination, and if the contractor you select can work with your time frame. The most popular contractors will have full schedules for weeks or months out.



Initial Design: 1-3 Days

Design depends greatly on you and the scope of your project. You may want to leave much of this in the designer's hands, or it may be your style to be involved in every detail. For an efficient process, communicate clearly defined wants, needs, and budget to your designer early in the process.



Final Design: 1-4 Weeks

The time it takes to finalize your design will depend on the number of changes you request and the scope of your kitchen remodel. Allow time for changes, pay attention to the details, and take advantage of your kitchen designer's experience and training.



Ordering Product: 1-2 Months

Order cabinets, flooring, appliances and other products early. Allow ample time for products, especially special orders, to arrive. Also allow time for damage, returns, and changing your mind.



Demolition and Structural Changes: 1-4 Weeks

If you're changing your existing kitchen footprint by moving walls and utilities this will be at the high end of the range. If you are just removing cabinets, flooring and prepping the existing kitchen area, you might be done in one or two days.



Rough-in Utilities: 1-2 Weeks

Roughing in utilities applies if you are moving a sink, stove, refrigerator or other appliance that involves gas or electric, or if you are moving or adding light fixtures and outlets.



Painting: 1-3 Days

Since painting is much faster when you don't have to work around cabinets, appliances, trim and flooring, it should be one of the first steps. You can touch up later after construction.



Flooring Install: 3-5 Days

Flooring can be installed before or after the cabinets. It really depends on the type of flooring you have selected. If you install flooring before cabinets, have a plan on how to protect it.



Cabinet Install: 3-5 Days

The time frame for cabinet installation depends on the size of the kitchen, design details, and whether you or a Pro are installing. If you are installing, consider your experience and help.



Countertop Measurement: 1 Day

Once your base and pantry cabinets have been installed, you are ready for a countertop measure. Pre-schedule the measure to avoid losing time. The countertop installer will have to schedule a visit to your home, likely during business hours.



Appliance Install 1: 1-2 Days

Make sure your utility connections are ready for installation of built-in appliances, and that ventilation, heat, and cold-air-return ductwork is in place.



Lighting Install: 1-2 Days

Lighting can be easily installed if you have prepped your space for ceiling, work space and under cabinet lights. Wiring and new switch boxes take quite a bit of time.



Countertop Fabrication: 1-2 Weeks

Delivery times will vary by material type. Countertops can take as little as five days to one month.



Countertop Install: 1-2 Days

Most countertops can be installed in one day or less. Plan an extra day to allow for error or damage.



Backsplash Install: 1-2 Days

The backsplash normally will take 1 day, but may, based on the material and the design, take longer.



Appliance Install 2: 1-2 Days

This time line depends on utility type (gas or electric), hookups, assembly, and final adjustments. It is a good idea to confirm everything is ready before the day the appliances are scheduled for installation.



Finish Carpentry: 2-4 Days

Crown molding, decorative accents, base shoe molding, paint touch-ups and other finishing details typically take several days.