

# Getting Started on Your Kitchen Renovation



## Step 1. Set A Budget

It is important to set a budget that is realistic in terms of what you can afford and what you can expect to achieve. A common benchmark for a kitchen renovation is a budget of between 10% and 15% of the value of your home. A good way of determining a budget is to anticipate the length of time you intend to stay in your home – the longer, the higher the budget can be. Your kitchen company needs a budget to help choose all components of your kitchen that are best suited to your needs and lifestyle. A competent designer will know how to achieve your goals and get the best value for your dollar. The selection of kitchen products is endless, as long as you work with a kitchen company who has the knowledge and ability to source the products that are of interest.

## Step 2. Collect Photos

Look at design magazines and collect photos of layouts, colours, cabinetry, appliances, countertops, storage solutions etc., that appeal to you. This will help your designer understand the look you are hoping to achieve. You should however, be prepared to expect that all your wishes may not be met due to practical or budgetary reasons.

## Step 3. Make A List of Your “I Wants”

Think about the main features you would like to see in your kitchen (i.e. types of appliances; drawers for pots and pans versus cupboards; pull-outs and pantries; appliance garages; built-in entertainment equipment such as TV's / Audio Devices; islands with or without seating; amount of counter space; storage aids such as spice drawers; vegetable storage; recycling bins; garbage receptacles; countertop and flooring materials, etc.)

## Step 4. Make A List of Your “I Do Not Likes”

Itemize the things that are lacking, inefficient, or you really dislike in your present kitchen. Do you have a poor layout, does the fridge open the wrong way, is the sink too big or too small, do you have adequate light, not enough storage space, lack of good organization within cupboards, etc.

## Step 5. Assess Your Lifestyle

Recognize the needs of your family. Whether you have young children, teenagers, an empty nest, special needs, or in-laws living with you, the design of your kitchen and/or the materials used should be chosen carefully. As previously stated, there is a huge selection of products available that will be best suited to your family's needs and wants.

## Step 6. Research Your Appliances

Before the design process begins, it is important for you to think about and research your appliances. Will you be using existing appliances, buying only some or replacing with all new ones? Will the range be freestanding, slide-in, or a cook-top / wall-oven combination? Will the appliances be electric or gas? Will appliances be over-sized, apartment- sized or standard sizes? Do you have a specific range hood in mind? Will there be a wine fridge, a built-in coffee machine, or any other auxiliary appliances that need to be addressed. Given this information, our designers will assess whether the appliances you have in mind are the optimum solution for your space and, if necessary, recommend alternate choices.

## Step 7. In Summary

A kitchen renovation at times can be overwhelming. However, by following the steps mentioned above; having realistic expectations with regard to your budget and the scale of kitchen renovation it will translate into; and finding a competent kitchen design company, will ensure the process is an enjoyable one.

Emerald Kitchens & Design Inc. has designers on staff to help you in the selection of all aspects of your kitchen renovation. We are also capable of full scope construction and renovation projects. The company employs a full-time construction manager who oversees a team of skilled trades people. The procedure provides complete control over all elements of the renovation and creates high quality results. In short, you can trust Emerald Kitchens and Design to do the job right.