

Frequently Asked Questions

How long does a typical kitchen or bathroom renovation take?

- Overall, expect a typical renovation to take from 6 to 16 weeks from start to finish including planning, design, selections, execution, and wrapping up the final touches.
- There are many factors that go into determining the timeline for any type of renovation. Whether a kitchen or bathroom renovation you must consider the size, design, and configuration, along with the delivery lead-time for all materials needed for the project.



How long does a typical bathroom renovation take?

- Full bathroom renovations that include changes in plumbing and electrical, along with all new products and finishes, can take anywhere between 6 to 12 weeks depending on the size and complexity of the bathroom (master-vs-guest bathroom).

What are some things I should consider when renovating a bathroom?

- **Niches for Storage:** Unlike clunky over-the-showerhead organizers, a recessed cubby (niche) in a tub or shower wall gives shampoo and soap a permanent home and doesn't take up stall space. Size it to minimize tile cuts, and line the bottom with a leftover piece of stone or solid-surface countertop, not tile, so you won't have to scrape away soap scum from grout lines.
- **Lighting:** Consider recessed light fixtures throughout your ceiling to brighten up the room. Include one (or two) in your shower with the proper shower trim. You'll also want to consider how you'll be using the mirror in your bathroom and whether you want aesthetic or functional lighting. Whether for make-up or shaving, bright light fixtures properly placed go a long way to help you see what you're doing up close.
- **Exhaust & Venting:** Some older homes never had an option for venting, and often times results in wet walls and ceiling from 'standing moisture' after a shower or bath. Adding an exhaust fan in a shower area really helps avoid future repairs from standing moisture.

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- **Medicine cabinets:** The 1st question to ask yourself is do you really need one? If you have storage elsewhere, you may not need a medicine cabinet. The medicine cabinet is being considered an antiquated feature, as designers and builders are getting more creative with storage solutions. For instance, if you have the option to add drawers into the new vanity-cabinet design, this may be an easy way to add extra storage and eliminate the need for a medicine cabinet all together. If you can't add storage anywhere else, the next question is do you have the space to recess your medicine cabinet? Oftentimes this is a great way to save a few inches of space over a shallow vanity cabinet, and the additional framing needed to recess the medicine cabinet typically won't break the budget. If recessing into the wall is not an option, ensure that you have enough room at your vanity to have your medicine cabinet protrude by 4 to 5 inches.
- **Shower sills:** A shower sill refers to the bottom portion of the window or top portion of the shower curb. What's important here is that it is sloped properly into the shower. Try to choose a material that is solid, like stone or quartz which can be left over material from your countertop. If you tile your shower curb, water can sit on the grout lines and eventually seep through to the framing.
- **Shower floors:** It's best to use a smaller format tile or mosaic tile sheets for the shower floor, rather than large format tiles. Larger tiles are typically more difficult to slope properly towards the drain, and unless they're textured, they'll be slippery because the grout lines are further apart. Smaller tiles, whether textured or not, offer more traction and are typically the choice for shower floors. The smaller tiles and mosaics are also much easier to slope properly towards the drain and allow for a more effective finished product.
- **Shower bases:** Gone are the days of boring beige prefabricated shower bases. Today's shower systems have options that have modern, clean bases made from acrylic or porcelain. Don't overlook alternate options for your shower floor.
- **Shower glass doors:** There are many options available today, including the modern designs of frameless doors and barn-door styles. Even if you don't have a walk-in shower, and only have a tub, you can still add a shower glass door to a tub.

What flooring options are the best for a bathroom renovation? Is one option better than another?

- There are many flooring options available on the market but not all are suitable for your bathroom. You want to make sure the material you pick is waterproof. Some excellent options are:

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- **Porcelain Tile:** Endless options for natural stone and wood look, completely waterproof, and very durable. Though tile can be cold especially immediately out of the shower, it's nonporous and won't absorb water. Tile can also be slippery when wet, especially with a polished finish, so it's recommended to choose a tile with at least a slight texture for added grip in wet areas.
- **Vinyl:** Vinyl flooring has surged in popularity as a bathroom flooring material due to its water-resistance, reasonable pricing, and ease of installation. While vinyl is extremely durable, it can develop bumps, gaps, or curls after a period of time.
- **Wood:** Wood floors are not recommended for bathrooms, though very nice looking, they don't offer any protection from water damage and can lead to other structural issues later down the line.

What are some ways I can increase my storage options in a smaller bathroom?

- Vanity Cabinet Vs Pedestal Sink: opt for a sink base that's a vanity instead of a pedestal. This will offer more options such as drawers and concealed storage of toiletries.
- Consider installing a vanity with drawer storage rather than doors. Drawers are easier to access and easier to organize. They can be cut out around the plumbing and can be extra-large to accommodate large items.
- Wall Cabinets: you can easily gain additional storage by adding a small wall cabinet above the toilet area, or on a blank wall. This type of cabinet is usually 4" to 8" deep, and the shallower cabinets can be recessed into the wall by placing it between the studs.

Can I do a walk-in shower, or should I keep the tub?

- Shower or tub? When considering a bathtub or a shower-only option, ask yourself how many baths you take a year. Remember you are not renovating your home for a future buyer, but rather for yourself. Even if you live in your house only for another five years, it's worth it to do it for yourself. And besides, there's no guaranteed way to tell what will appeal to a future buyer. Do what appeals to you.
- It is recommended to have at least one bathtub in the house. So, if there is only one bathroom in the home, then having a bathtub is beneficial for resale. But again, it's your home, do what works best for you.

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KITCHENS

How long does a typical kitchen renovation take?

- Full kitchen renovations that include changes in plumbing and electrical service locations, along with all new appliances, products, and finishes, can take anywhere between 8 to 16 weeks depending on the size and complexity of the kitchen. If the project requires moving walls or chipping concrete floors, then it can take up to 20+ weeks.

What are some things I should consider when renovating a kitchen?

- How many people use the kitchen?
- Is your kitchen functional, or need some adjustments for better function and flow?
- How often do you cook or entertain?
- Will you need space for dining?
- How can you maximize storage space? Do you need more storage space?
- How's the lighting?

What's the average size of tile for the walls, backsplash, flooring?

- Bathroom Walls: 12 x 24, 4x12 Subway
- Back Splash: 12x12 Mosaics, 3x6/ 3x12/4x12 Subway Tiles
- Flooring: 12x24, 6x36, 4x48, 6x48

What are the different types of lighting options I can choose from for a kitchen or bathroom project?

- **Recessed Ceiling Fixtures:** Install these overall open floor space to provide ambient light where people will stand and work.
- **Under-Cabinet Lighting:** Use this to provide task lighting over the countertops—and to highlight the countertop, backsplash, and cabinetry when it's the only light that's on. You can also use lighting underneath the base cabinets in a kitchen or bathroom, for additional ambiance.

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- **Pendants/Ceiling Fixtures:** Brighten work zones like islands, peninsulas, and sinks with decorative pendants that provide diffuse light without creating shadows.

What flooring options are the best for a kitchen renovation?

- The kitchen is one of the hardest-working rooms in the house and finding the best flooring for the kitchen can be one of the biggest challenges. Your floor needs to be pleasing to the eye but also must tolerate high foot traffic, spills, and messes.
 - **Engineered Hardwood:** It is durable enough to withstand a high amount of traffic and moisture resistant to handle spills. It does tend to be the more costly option and it can be difficult to replace damaged planks.
 - **Vinyl:** Vinyl is budget friendly and highly water resistant, with some options being completely waterproof. It's easy to clean and maintain and comes in endless color and style options. Vinyl is extremely durable, but it can still develop bumps, gaps, or curls after a period of time. It is also susceptible to scratches.
 - **Porcelain Tile:** Tile provides endless options and is completely waterproof, hard, and durable, stain resistant and can resemble natural stone but is much less expensive. While your tiles are incredibly durable and waterproof, the same is not always true of your grout. Water can seep into the grout, meaning it is the first thing to become discolored.

Can I remove walls?

- Yes, in most cases. If you do want to open-up the kitchen to other rooms, however, don't assume removing the wall is as simple as knocking down drywall and making some drywall patches. Some walls are load bearing and may require additional header support added in place of the wall removal. Such additional support is needed to help carry the weight of the roof and evenly distribute the weight around the newly opened area. We can typically tell whether or not a wall is load bearing by inspecting the 'trusses' in the attic or looking at the original plans (blueprints) of the house.
- Many homeowners also assume that the sink, stove, and refrigerator must stay where they are, which is not always the case.

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How will we work without a kitchen?

- If you plan to stay in your home while it's under construction, we can set up a temporary kitchen that will allow the continued use of the space as needed throughout the process.
- A temporary kitchen consists of using a utility sink provided by GKB, and leaving the range, dishwasher, and fridge operational if they're staying in the same location. If the range and dishwasher are in new locations, then the plumbing and electrical rough-in needs to be complete before they can be used again. The refrigerator can simply be moved away from the construction zone and used as normal.