

“Don’t be Embarrassed by your Kitchen this Holiday Season!”

by Sarah Day

Have you always struggled to get the holiday meals on the table? Do you apologize to your guests for the state of your kitchen? NOT THIS YEAR! You still have time to create a whole new kitchen before the holidays arrive!

Let’s get that kitchen remodel going now – let’s say today is September 1st! You will need to be on the ball about making decisions about the design and materials you want, but there’s still plenty of time to have a brand new kitchen before Christmas.

Step One: Have a good kitchen designer visit your home and measure your kitchen and get an idea of the space – noting views, natural light, traffic flow, etc. Your designer will ask you about the style of kitchen you want, your specific functional needs, a preliminary choice of materials & appliances, and your budget. It behooves you to have thought about these topics before the appointment with the designer.

Kitchen styles range from the Ultra-Modern to Old World and anywhere in between. You can gather pictures from kitchen & design magazines, there are many great ideas available in books or on-line, or check out your friends’ homes. Hopefully, your designer will have a showroom where you can “test drive” different design styles.

The showroom also lets you experience the different functional items available. Look at different corner access options, drawers vs. roll-out shelves, pantry storage options, and much more. As you are using your existing kitchen, make note of any problem areas or places that need improvement. Also, make a wish list of everything you’ve dreamed about having in your ideal kitchen.

Step Two: Your designer will use your wish list, your ideas about style & materials, and your needs along with the dimensions & features of your room to design the best kitchen for your home. This will take about a week. Then you will be asked to review the new plans – probably two or three design ideas for your new kitchen. Here you can expedite the timeline by making prompt decisions. Do you like one plan more than another? Why? Another few days and the designer will have a final plan together.

We’re about two weeks into the project now – so it’s right about September 15th! (Assuming you started September 1st.)

Step Three: Order the cabinets. Typically high quality custom cabinets will take around 7 to 8 weeks to arrive. We use Wood-Mode cabinets for a completely custom fit with the benefits of the factory finish and years of experience. Now, while the cabinets are on order, you can hire a remodeling contractor for the demo and rehab work. This also gives you time to order the appliances, flooring and counter materials. (September 16th through October 14th.)



Step Four: Continuing with our assumed start date of September 1st, your contractor will begin “demo” on October 14th: he will remove the existing cabinetry, coordinate the electrical changes, the plumbing refitting, drywall patch as needed & paint. This will take about two to three weeks (less time needed if there are very few changes in plumbing and electrical – one recent job only took two days to get ready for new cabinets!)

Step Five: Installation! It’s November 5th, the cabinets are delivered and cabinet install begins – it will take about 5 days. When the base cabinets are in place, the counter templates can be made and the counters fabricated. While waiting for the counters, get the flooring installed and touch-up the paint. Expect counter installation around November 21st. And we’re getting down to the wire! *Have Thanksgiving at your relative’s home and laugh at their old, boring and dysfunctional kitchen.*

Step Six: Finish your backsplash, install your appliances and hook up the sink. You will be ready to move back into your kitchen and start your holiday baking by December 10th.

Now enjoy your wonderful Christmas present – your new kitchen!



