

Is it affordable?

The most important question! If it's not affordable then do nothing! Be happy with what you have until you can afford to do the job properly with quality products and service. The Real Estate industry advises 'The total value of your kitchen should represent 5-7% of your property value' I would say "Whatever *you* would invest in a new car" Either way you should be thinking \$10-16k for a basic kitchen... \$20-30k for a quality kitchen... and from there the sky is the limit!

How will I finance this project?

If you are fortunate enough to have the funds available that's great! Bank finance for a \$30,000 kitchen over ten years will only cost you about \$12 a day: a small sum to invest in any home. Your kitchen designer has contacts who can fund your project. If you only need a couple of thousand dollars more than you allowed, your credit card can offer an affordable short term loan.

Research.

The more time you can invest here, the better the final result. Talk to your friends about their kitchen experiences (everyone is an expert on their own renovation!) Search the internet, buy kitchen magazines, visit showrooms, collect brochures and colour samples. Referrals from satisfied friends are a great way to go. Talk to a Certified Designer who knows the answers.

Shop for appliances

If you buy all your appliances yourself, from one major supplier, you will generally have a wider choice and get a better deal. Visit your local suppliers and have a good look around. No need to buy anything at this stage, but *do* make a note of the **manufacturer, model number** and of course **price**, with this information, you can shop online for hot deals. Purchase your new appliances after ordering your cabinetry to avoid installation issues.

Design session.

Organise an onsite meeting with your Designer to measure up and agree on layout, materials and accessories. Allow a comfortable two hours with minimum distractions. A design brief will be created to cover all aspects of your project. Make your own notes. This session should give you a clear picture of your entire project. Your designer will then prepare plans, specifications and a quotation. Take the time to reflect and consider if the proposed layout is going to work for you. Make notes for any design changes or questions you might have. You must be fairly serious about your project to reach this stage!

Quotation.

Meet again with your designer to view your new kitchen in computer 3-D view. The layout can be fine-tuned if needed; and colours and handles selected. All your selections will be confirmed and your quotations presented. When you have **all** the information you need then it's time to decide what's best for you, your home and your money. It's generally wise to bin the cheaper quotes if you want to avoid being disappointed. It's all about getting the best result, not the cheapest price!

Get things started.

When all looks well, and you feel comfortable with everything *this* is the right time to place your order... whilst all details are fresh in your mind and prices quoted current. You can still make changes on check-measure if needed. When you order your new kitchen you will receive your Work Orders, plans and specifications and be required to make an initial investment.

Check-measure.

All aspects of your job are accurately re-measured by your designer and installer. You will need to have *all* appliance details available for this important session. Final changes are made at this time. An approximate installation date will be provided.

Manufacture

Final cabinet specifications are then processed and submitted to the cabinetmaker. A delivery date is normally issued within two days. Materials are ordered, trades work organised and the cabinets built and delivered to your job site on the agreed date. Your project will revolve around the delivery of your cabinetry. Melamine door cabinets can be produced in 2-3 weeks (2 pack and other finishes 3-4 weeks), your cabinet delivery date will be confirmed one week prior.

Order your appliances.

Don't delay! Order your appliances now to ensure availability for installation. Pay your supplier a deposit and advise them of your required delivery date.

Demolition & Installation

We aim to deliver your new cabinetry and remove your existing kitchen on the same day. Your new kitchen cabinets will normally be installed the following day. All appliances must be available for installation. If you are responsible for any trades work you will need to co-ordinate these at the appropriate time. Allow additional time for structural or plastering work. Your plumber and electrician will visit initially to disconnect/modify and call back to connect after bench top installation.

Stone bench tops.

Add 2-4 days to project completion. The stonemason will only check-measure for bench tops *after* cabinetry installation.

Glass splash backs.

Add 1-2 weeks to project completion. The glazier will only check-measure for splash backs *after* bench top installation.

Then you can begin to enjoy all the benefits your new kitchen offers... and the compliments of your family and friends.