

KITCHEN

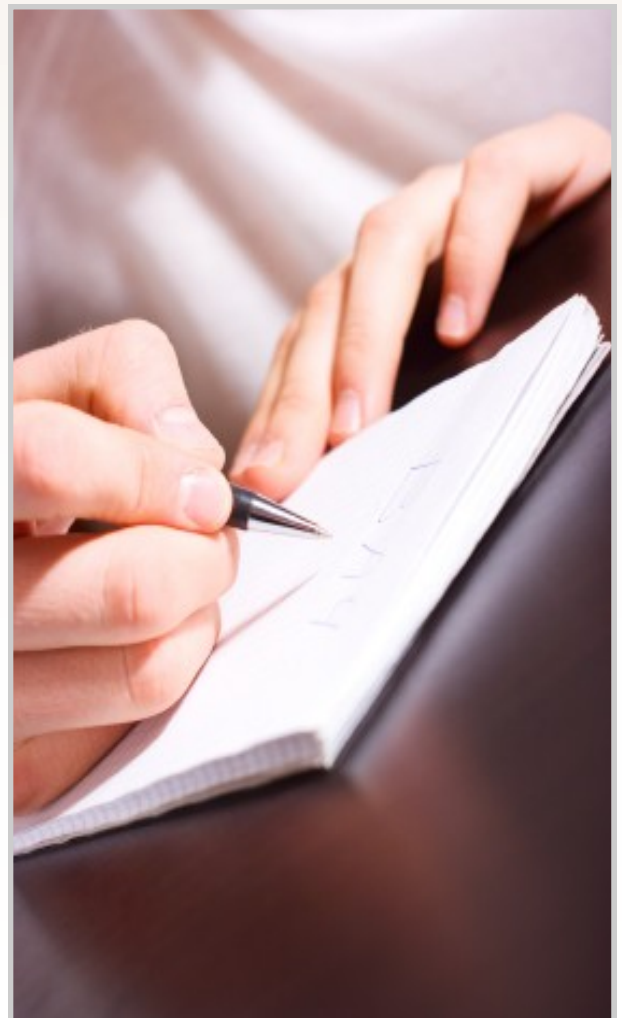


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Establishing a Budget

Establishing a budget is extremely important when planning your kitchen or bath remodeling project. In fact, developing a budget should be at the very top of your “planning to-do list”. Base your budget on your wants for sure, but more importantly give consideration to what you truly need. Your budget should be realistic. Base it on what you are willing and able to invest. Discuss the budget with your designer. This will make the process of choosing and purchasing new cabinetry easier and could actually save you money in the end. If your designer has a clear understanding of your budget this will keep expenses “in-check”, prevent settling for unexpected options, and it will head-off disagreements with your trade professionals or even worse, an unfinished room.

When making decisions about your budget it may be helpful to make a list of items you are most willing to spend money on (cabinetry, flooring, etc.). In addition, you may want to list items you consider less of a priority. Creating these “wish lists” and prioritizing the items will come in handy when your design professional starts to design your kitchen or bath. By providing your designer with this list it enables he or she to make specific recommendations and design options that fit within your budget.



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Before accepting any proposal, be sure to visit the designer's showroom. This will give you an opportunity to see first-hand the quality of the cabinetry you are considering. Also, it's recommended that at some point prior to the final design and price quote, the designer visit your project site. You can provide the designer with detailed information that can be used to complete a project survey. Once the designer has a completed survey, they know exactly what you want and can accurately bid the project. When the design has been finalized, comes in on budget and you're ready to sign, it is important you review the contract thoroughly. If you have any questions or concerns, now is the time to bring them to the designer's attention.



Most deposits will range between 25% and 50% of the total contract. Request a written schedule of payments. This will help in avoiding any confusion along the way. As a precaution, make sure to have all of your materials delivered before making a final payment. In addition, try to have a final inspection done prior to final payment. Following is a typical payment schedule:

- 50% when you sign the contract
- 40% when installation is started
- 10% upon final inspection

By following these simple suggestions and making sure you have a detailed contract listing all of the features of your new cabinetry, there will be no surprises and you will stay on budget.

