



This kitchen was designed by the mother-daughter team of Kelly Morisseau, CMKBD, CID, and Carol Morisseau, CMKBD, CID, of Main Street Kitchens (www.mainstreetkitchens.com).

Preparing for a Kitchen Remodel

BY MARYJO CAMP, CKD, CBD, CID

KITCHENS ARE INDEED the heart of the home. If you want your remodel to be heart healthy, you must plan ahead to create the kitchen of your dreams. Thorough preparation makes the process proceed smoothly, reducing construction time and saving money. Here are some steps to follow.

- Consider many design styles and products in magazines, Web sites, and books and keep a file of those spaces that appeal to you.
- Understand why you are remodeling and what investment you are prepared to make. Remodeled kitchens add value to your home. Determine whether your planned kitchen remodel will overprice your home for the neighborhood when it's time to sell.
- Interview design professionals, review samples of their work, and check their references to be sure they can perform to your expectations. A signed contract clarifies the process and protects your rights.
- Hire a Certified Interior Designer (CID), design professionals who have completed a combination of education and testing that ensures they have knowledge in the broad field of interior design. A Certified Kitchen Designer (CKD) has specific education and testing in the field of kitchen design.
- Work with your chosen designer to develop a complete plan. Include your product selections in the planning documents.
- Visualize using your new kitchen. Take time to plan where you will store your food, dishes, cooking equipment, et cetera in your new space. Ask questions if you're uncomfortable with your plan.

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- When you're interviewing contractors, ask specific questions about how each one works. Make sure that you can communicate with them and they listen to you.
- Choose a contractor whose license is active with no complaints filed against him or her. Your contract should state exactly what is included in the project and what is to be completed before each payment.
- To avoid delays, order all materials and have them on hand before any demolition begins.
- Set up a temporary kitchen (refrigerator, microwave, and sink) in an alternate location—perhaps the garage, family room, or outside—so you can prepare simple meals during construction. Include going out to dinner in your total remodeling budget.
- Be flexible and understand that even with much preparation, surprises will happen during your remodel.
- Plan a celebration party for the completion of the project.

Kitchens are the center of the home, and remodeling this essential space can be stressful. Planning ahead removes much of the stress so you can actually enjoy the transformation as it occurs. Control the process and celebrate in the kitchen of your dreams.

MaryJo Camp, CKD, CBD, CID, is the vice president for marketing and business development at Standards of Excellence. For a free list of Certified Interior Designers in your area, contact the California Council for Interior Design Certification at (760) 761-4734 or by e-mail at ccidc@ccidc.org and include your city or zip code. **THM**