



Randi Destefano, ASID

# 5 STEPS EVERY *Kitchen Makeover* MUST FOLLOW TO LIVE UP TO YOUR *Dream*



**Before you take your first shopping trip or buy your first appliance, make sure that you follow these 5 steps.** This list isn't just useful for your Kitchen Makeover, it's also the perfect recipe for success when you're ready to begin a makeover in *any* room in your home.

## 1. KNOW YOUR VISION

- We all have a dream of how we want our kitchen to look and function.
- Now is the time to get this vision out of your head and organized.
- Set up a “**My Design Project**” binder with tabs for each category (i.e. islands, hoods, etc.).
- Save pictures from magazines of your favorite kitchens.
- Add a sticky note to each page so you'll remember what you like about it. Is it the island? Save it to your ISLAND tab.
- Create Idea Books on Houzz and add more pins and boards to your Pinterest account.
- Recognize WHY you wanted this makeover in the first place. To entertain more? Better storage?
- How do you want to feel when you're finally in your new space? Motivated to cook? Proud and excited to share with it with family and friends? Knowing this up front will help your planning.

## 2. MAKE A PLAN and FOLLOW YOUR PLAN

- Make a list of everything you need and want in your kitchen. Create tabs in your binder for this.
- Measure your kitchen from corner to corner. Doors and windows are measured from outside trim to outside trim. Kitchen designers mark these measurements in inches.
- Draw your kitchen to scale on graph paper. Remember that cabinets typically come in 3” increments. Plan what you want to include inside each cabinet.
- Begin with where your sink will be placed, then add your appliance locations.
- Decide the style and colors for your kitchen
- Once final decisions are made, remember that any change orders will cost you more money.
- It's exciting to rush out and start selecting cabinets and counter tops, but until a floor plan is close to being completed, don't make any purchases.
- Plan where and how you'll store food, cook, and clean up during your renovation.
- Place your frequently used kitchen items in a plastic storage bin to keep close by for daily use.

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## 3. CREATE YOUR BUDGET

- Everyone has one or two kitchen products they value more than others, and this will impact how you set up your budget.
- Start by building a **Spending Plan** spreadsheet that you set up by categories (cabinets, countertops, lighting, etc.)
- Under each category list everything you want and need in your kitchen.
- Have a column for cost, model numbers and finish, manufacturer, and notes.
- Don't forget to include a 10% cushion for unexpected surprises behind the walls.
- Create a **Product Research Sheet** to keep all your product information in one place

## 4. SCHEDULE FOR SUCCESS

- Set up interviews with general contractors and/or subcontractors. Hiring based on the lowest bid isn't always a wise decision. It's important that you like and trust your contractor since you'll be working closely with each other for several weeks.
- Schedule showroom appointments to look for cabinets, counter tops, appliances, lighting, and tile. Having a confirmed appointment will give you one-on-one time with a skilled sales rep who can show you their products without being rushed.
- All products should be ordered and delivered to a warehouse or job site before construction begins. Don't make the mistake of tearing out your existing kitchen and having something be on back order.
- Take some "me" time and schedule a dinner out or a spa treatment. Construction chaos can get to you after a few weeks.

## 5. DETAILS MAKE ALL THE DIFFERENCE

- Choose paint colors for walls, ceiling, and trim
- Furniture to consider for your new kitchen... bar stools, table and chairs, etc.
- Install window treatments for privacy, sun protection, and beauty.
- What "bells and whistle" accessories do you want inside your cabinets?
- Area rugs add color and texture to the space.

**Ready for your next step?** Join us in our **Hands-on Kitchen Makeover** Facebook group where you can ask design questions, share ideas, and learn about new products.