

# Kitchen Remodel Checklist (Planning to Punch List)

Checklist · 70 items · 18 sections

A kitchen remodel is the most expensive room project in most houses and the most coordinated trade-by-trade. Order matters: plumbing rough-in before tile, electrical before drywall, countertop template after cabinets are set. The list below walks through the standard sequence and the decisions that have to be made before each one. Allow 8 to 12 weeks for a moderate remodel; longer if walls move or appliances run long lead times.

Open the editable, AI-powered version online:

<https://genechecklist.com/checklist/kitchen-remodel-checklist>

## PLANNING

- Set total budget including 15 to 20% contingency  
**HIGH**
- Decide scope: cosmetic refresh, pull-and-replace, full gut, or layout change  
**HIGH**
- Confirm financing: cash, HELOC, home equity loan, or RenoFi-style construction loan  
**HIGH**
- List must-haves and nice-to-haves (more storage, island, second oven, induction)  
**HIGH**
- Walk three competing kitchens at friends or showrooms to crystallize style
- Photograph current kitchen from every angle for the design conversation

## DESIGN

- Hire designer, architect (if moving walls), or design-build firm  
**HIGH**
- Measure the kitchen accurately: walls, ceiling height, window heights, plumbing locations  
**HIGH**
- Approve floor plan: work triangle, island clearance (42 to 48 in), aisle widths  
**HIGH**
- Approve elevations: cabinet heights, upper run, hood placement, window relationship  
**HIGH**
- Lighting plan: ambient, task (under-cabinet), accent, plus dimming layers

HIGH

- Outlet plan: counter outlets every 4 ft, dedicated circuits for fridge, microwave, disposal, dishwasher

HIGH

- Vent hood plan: CFM matched to range BTU output, ducted to exterior

HIGH

- Pick interior style and finish: door style, color, hardware, sheen

HIGH

## CABINETS

- Choose cabinets (stock, semi-custom, custom) and order; lead time 4 to 12 weeks

HIGH

- Cabinets delivered: inspect for damage same day; report missing or wrong parts

HIGH

- Install upper cabinets first, then base, then island

HIGH

- Level and shim, screw to studs and to each other

HIGH

- Filler strips and finish panels installed

## COUNTERTOPS

- Choose countertop material: quartz, granite, butcher block, soapstone, marble

HIGH

- Slab selection in person if natural stone (no two slabs match)

HIGH

- Countertop fabricator templates after cabinets are in (laser or digital)

HIGH

- Countertops installed and seamed

HIGH

- Sink and faucet installed

HIGH

## PLUMBING

- Choose sink (apron, undermount, drop-in, single vs double basin)

HIGH

- Choose faucet, soap dispenser, filter, instant hot if planned

## APPLIANCES

- Appliance selection finalized with spec sheets for designer (each appliance has install spec)  
HIGH
- Range: gas (needs gas line), induction, or electric coil; size 30, 36, 48 in  
HIGH
- Refrigerator: counter depth, panel-ready, with water/ice  
HIGH
- Dishwasher panel decision (panel-ready vs stainless)
- Microwave drawer, over-range, or wall built-in
- Wall oven, warming drawer, beverage center if planned
- Appliances delivered and installed (plumber for gas range, ice maker)  
HIGH
- Range hood hung and ducted; air-flow tested  
HIGH

## FINISHES

- Choose flooring: hardwood, LVP, tile, polished concrete  
HIGH
- Choose backsplash: tile pattern, slab, or extended counter material  
HIGH
- Paint colors selected for walls, ceiling, trim
- Hardware selected: pulls, knobs (count, size, finish)

## PERMITS

- Pull building permit if moving walls, gas, plumbing, electrical  
HIGH
- HOA approval if needed

## PREP

- Set up temporary kitchen: microwave, hot plate, mini-fridge, dish station  
HIGH
- Pack and remove everything from the kitchen, dining, and pantry  
HIGH
- Protect adjacent floors with rosin paper, ram board, or plastic  
HIGH

- Seal off the kitchen with zip walls and run a negative air machine if asthma in house
- Order dumpster

HIGH

## DEMOLITION

- Disconnect appliances, water supply, gas, electrical at panel
- Demo cabinets, countertops, backsplash, flooring
- Inspect what's behind: water damage, knob-and-tube, old plumbing, asbestos
- Test for lead and asbestos if home is pre-1978

HIGH

HIGH

HIGH

HIGH

## ROUGH-INS

- Rough plumbing: relocate supply and drain lines, install valves
- Rough electrical: dedicated circuits, GFCI, lighting boxes, low-voltage
- Vent hood ductwork run to exterior with smooth metal duct, no flex
- Gas line installed and tested (licensed plumber)
- Rough inspections passed before drywall

HIGH

HIGH

HIGH

HIGH

HIGH

## WALLS

- Insulation in any new exterior wall sections
- Drywall hung, taped, sanded, primed
- Paint ceiling and walls (paint before cabinets goes faster)

HIGH

## FLOORING

- Install flooring (subfloor first if needed)

HIGH

## **BACKSPLASH**

- Backsplash tile set and grouted  
**HIGH**
- Caulking between counter and backsplash, around sink, in tile corners  
**HIGH**

## **TRIM**

- Trim: baseboards, crown, toe kicks
- Cabinet hardware (knobs and pulls) installed

## **FINAL**

- Light fixtures hung, dimmers and switches installed  
**HIGH**
- Final electrical and plumbing inspection passed  
**HIGH**
- Final building inspection / sign-off  
**HIGH**

## **PUNCH LIST**

- Punch list walk-through with GC: scratches, gaps, paint touch-ups, missing handles  
**HIGH**
- Punch list items resolved and re-inspected  
**HIGH**
- Final cleaning, then move kitchen back in

## **RECORDS**

- Save all warranties, manuals, and receipts (cabinet, counter, appliance, plumber, electrician)  
**HIGH**
- Update home insurance with the new value