

Should it stay or should it go? Before your project gets moving, you will need to determine which kitchen elements you're keeping and which ones you're hoping to change up. Will you be working with your current flooring? What about the refrigerator? Are you moving a wall? All of these decisions will affect your timeline and budget.

The questions below will help define the project scope and goals.

## APPLIANCES

Which of your current appliances do you plan to **keep**?

- Refrigerator** .....TIP: There are many options available, including free-standing French door, counter-depth and built-in. Deciding a basic style will help you narrow down their options.
- Range** .....TIP: A range includes both a cooking surface and an oven. The control can be at the back or on the front. Most ranges are 30", but they can vary in size up to 60".
- Cooktop** .....TIP: A cooktop is just that, only the top cooking surface. The oven sits separately. It can be gas or electric and can vary in size up to 60".
- Wall Oven** .....TIP: A wall oven sits separately from the cooktop and requires a cabinet designed to hold the oven. There are single or double oven or a combination that includes a microwave and/or a warming drawer. Wall ovens are typically 27" or 30" wide.
- Dishwasher** .....TIP: A standard dishwasher is 24" wide. Some dishwashers can be ordered to accept a decorative panel that matches the cabinetry.
- Built-in Microwave** .....TIP: A built-in microwave is installed in a cabinet designed for the appliance and the specific location in the kitchen. Typical placements include under the countertop, in a tall oven cabinet, or over the range. Some models can also double as a ventilation hood over the range.
- Vent Hood** .....TIP: A ventilation exhaust or range hood is a device containing a mechanical fan that hangs above the stove or cooktop. It removes airborne grease, fumes, smoke, heat, and steam from the air. There are many options today, including hoods that match the style and color of the cabinets.
- Other**

Which of these appliances do you plan to **purchase new**?

- I do not plan to purchase any new appliances.
- Refrigerator**
- Range**
- Cooktop**
- Wall Oven**
- Dishwasher**
- Built-in Microwave**
- Vent Hood**
- Other**

## CABINETS & COUNTERTOPS

Which of the following do you plan to **include in your project**?

- Cabinets** .....TIP: There's a lot to consider when replacing cabinets, including color, style, storage, construction and warranty.
- Countertops** .....TIP: If you are replacing the cabinets, you should plan to replace the countertops as well. It is extremely difficult to repurpose existing countertops.
- Sink** .....TIP: Think about how you would like to use the new sink. Single or double bowl? Standard or deep in depth? How about an apron front? These decisions will impact the size of the sink cabinet.
- Faucet** .....TIP: There are lots of options to consider for faucets, including handle type, spread, finishes, and accessories. Make sure you have the selections made before the countertops are measured to ensure the drilling is correct.
- Garbage Disposal** .....TIP: Garbage disposal drain connections are a consistent size, so reusing the existing disposal is possible.
- Secondary Sink** .....TIP: If you have space, a secondary sink can make a kitchen more productive for multiple cooks or simultaneous tasks.
- Secondary Faucet** .....TIP: Typically a secondary sink is smaller than the primary sink, so consider a lower-profile faucet.
- Secondary Garbage Disposal** .....TIP: Having a disposal in a secondary sink can make the prep area more efficient, like wiping down countertops after chopping veggies and sweeping them right into the sink.
- Backsplash** .....TIP: Choose tile or a simple strip that coordinate with the countertops. While tile isn't required, it's an opportunity for a personalized touch in the kitchen.
- Cabinet Knobs and Pulls** .....TIP: Most cabinet door styles require hardware – knobs or pulls – in order to access the cabinets. It's also another opportunity to add style to your kitchen.

## REST OF THE ROOM

Think about the rest of the room. Which of the following do you plan to **change during your project**?

- Flooring** .....TIP: The current flooring may not run under the cabinets. If you plan on keeping the current flooring, you may need to keep the same cabinet footprint to avoid exposing any unsightly gaps.
- Ceiling Light(s)** .....TIP: Whether you choose flush mount, semi-flush mount, or recessed lights, a good lighting plan and fixtures can greatly improve the space. Depending on the scope of the change, this may require electrical work.
- Pendant Light(s)** .....TIP: Common locations for pendant lights include kitchen islands, dining tables, and over sinks, providing much needed task lighting. Depending on the scope of the change, this may require electrical work.
- Under Cabinet Lights** .....TIP: Under-cabinet lighting provides much needed visibility for important tasks, such as cooking, chopping, or reading recipes. Use dimmers to provide lower levels of ambient light in the evening.
- Paint** .....TIP: Adding a fresh coat of paint can dramatically change the mood and style of a room. Painting is one of the most inexpensive ways to improve the look of the room without much effort.
- Trim** .....TIP: Look at the trim work around doors and windows as well as baseboards. It may be time to replace versus simply repainting.
- Windows** .....TIP: Do you need more light or a better view? Now is the time to replace. Top considerations when selecting windows can be function and operation, frame material, and glass options. You may also need exterior work, depending on the changes.
- Doors** .....TIP: If you see interior and patio doors from the kitchen, you may want to consider replacing some doors to better fit the style of their new space.

## LAYOUT CHANGES

Are you interested in any of the following **layout changes**?

- Removing the soffit** ..... TIP: A soffit is a boxed out area over the cabinets. Removing a soffit allows for taller cabinets. Sometimes a soffit is used as a chase for wires, plumbing, and duct work – making removal challenging.
- Moving the sink** ..... TIP: Relocating a sink to another area in the kitchen can often improve the view and functionality in your new kitchen. Plumbing should always be considered when moving the location of a sink.
- Adding a sink** ..... TIP: Adding a second sink to an island or other perimeter area can free up much needed space around the main kitchen sink. Plumbing should always be considered when adding a new sink into an existing space.
- Moving an appliance** ..... TIP: Moving appliances can help to create a new feel and workflow in the kitchen. Moving an appliance may require updating or moving electrical and plumbing.
- Adding a new type of appliance** ..... TIP: Adding new appliances into the kitchen offers many benefits but may require additional electrical or plumbing work.
- Changing appliance(s) from electric to gas or vice versa** ..... TIP: Changing cooking appliances from electric to gas can offer many benefits but may require additional electrical work or installation of gas services if you do not have gas today.
- Adding doors or windows** ..... TIP: Adding a new door or window can improve the view and provide better access points to commonly used areas. Structural elements should always be considered. Be sure to think about how you want the window to open: a standard up and down or a casement that opens out.
- Changing the cabinetry layout** ..... TIP: Changing the cabinet layout is one of the driving factors for many kitchen remodels. Moving walls, adding an island, and creating more space are all options for changing the kitchen layout.
- Moving wall(s)** ..... TIP: Moving walls can make a significant change in a kitchen layout. You, or your contractor, will need to determine if the wall is load bearing and if there is any potential impact to what may be running through the walls, like HVAC and plumbing.
- Adding new light locations** ..... TIP: Whether you choose flush mount, semi-flush mount, or recessed lights, a good lighting plan and fixtures can greatly improve the space. This will require electrical work.
- Adding square footage** ..... TIP: Adding square footage can be achieved by reconfiguring rooms, taking down interior walls, or expanding out beyond your home's current footprint..

Special Project Notes: