



BEAUTIFUL DESIGN
the Difference
- IS IN THE -
Details
SPEKTACULAR FINISH

A Guide to Your Dream Kitchen Remodel

From Contracts and Budgets to Design Details and Finishes:
Everything You Need to Know About Kitchen Remodeling

Spektacular
HOME REMODELING

Table of Contents

Steps for a Successful Kitchen Remodel.....	4
Certifications and Why They Are Important.....	6
Planning Your Remodel the Specktacular Way	8
Five Design Tips for Your Forever Kitchen.....	9
Ten Things to Discuss with Your Contractor Before Work Begins.....	11
Seven Reasons Kitchen Remodels Go Over Budget.....	13
Granite vs. Quartz – Which is Better?.....	16

So you're thinking about remodeling your home...

With rising home prices, and an ever evolving real estate market, many homeowners are choosing to stay where they are and invest in their home to better fit their needs and lifestyle. When you've come to the decision to remodel your home, the first room at the top of almost every homeowner's remodeling wishlist is the kitchen. We believe the kitchen is the heart of every home – it's where family and friends gather to prepare meals, where you help the kids with homework, or share stories over a cup of coffee or a glass of wine with a friend.

Here at Specktaclular Home Remodeling, we know how important it is to not only have a kitchen that you love to share with others, but one that also fits your family's needs and cooking style. Do you have a big family to prepare meals for? Is it just you and your dog? Are you more of a baker than a cook? Which appliances do you love to use every day? These are some of the questions we use to help our clients as we work through designing their new kitchen.

We understand how daunting it can be when you start looking into what kind of kitchen you want and looking for a contractor that you can trust with your home. You will want a team that listens and asks questions to better understand your needs, wants, and desires. We recommend looking for a company that treats you, your family, and your home with respect from your very first meeting and makes you feel confident throughout each stage of the process.

Our team at Specktaclular Home Remodeling have been remodeling and bringing new life to homes since 1992. We understand how overwhelming a kitchen remodel can be, which is why we take the time to walk through every step of our process with open and honest communication so we feel confident turning your dream kitchen into your reality. Our design-build approach is one of the many aspects that separates us from other companies. We believe in the importance of a functional design for family members of all ages to enjoy. From layout design to custom finishes, we've got you covered.

The spaces you choose to create, restore, or reinvent will become the background of your life. We know that remodeling can be a daunting task that many homeowners wait and plan for years, so we hope this guide helps you feel better prepared as you explore options to make your kitchen your own!



- Mitch & Debbie Speck

Steps for a Successful Kitchen Remodel

You've decided it's time to tackle your kitchen. But where do you start? Many people begin with picking out appliances, others with a long Pinterest binge. No matter where you start, it is a great idea to begin gathering inspiration of what you like, and also what you don't like. Once you've mulled over your options, it's time to call us to start forming a plan for a successful kitchen remodel!

1. Think about what you need in your kitchen and research.

Before you get too far in the design process, it's important to figure out how you use your kitchen and think about what you want your final layout to be. Here are some good questions to ask yourself:

- How many people will be cooking in the kitchen?
- Will you be cooking for two or your whole family?
- How will the foot traffic flow?
- Do you need an addition, or can you work with your existing kitchen footprint?

2. Plan.

Next you want to figure out your budget. If you are totally unsure of where to start, check out the [Cost vs. Value report](#). The Portland area is conveniently one of the areas they survey, so we think it's a great resource for our clients to get an idea on how much to start saving for.

3. Call us.

Unless you are planning on building and installing your own kitchen cabinets and doing your own electrical and plumbing (not recommended!) now is the time to call our office to set up the initial meeting. We consider the initial meeting as a mutual interview to see if we will be a good fit for you and your family. At this appointment we will dive into your vision, discuss your budget and schedule, and what you can expect from us. Feel free to check out our full [step-by-step process](#) to learn more about how our company operates.

4. Decide on a schematic design under a Professional Services Agreement.

While picking out finishes is pretty fun, we like to focus on the schematics of your new space first. We will focus on preliminary floor plans and elevations that will show you the layout and cabinet sizes so you get a good feel for how the space will flow when it's complete. We will reference many of the questions in topic number 1 to ensure you end up with your dream kitchen!

5. Specify fixtures and finishes.

By this point you probably know what style you want your kitchen to be and what color cabinets you want. This is great! Now is the time to finalize your selections for your cabinets (type, door style, finish and color), countertop material, appliances, sinks and faucets, light fixtures, flooring, backsplash, hardware, and paint. Some of our clients already have this almost figured out and some want our professional opinion, we love helping no matter what end of the spectrum you fall into!

6. Sign a contract so we can finalize design and construction documents.

Once you have decided it's time to start building your kitchen, we will enter into a contract together and place your project into our production calendar. We will finalize your technical drawings, acquire your permits, and finalize any material selections.

7. Prepare for demo day.

The big day has almost arrived! It's time for us to meet and go over your official production schedule. We will do a walk through with your project manager and make sure all your questions are answered before we move our crew in to your home. Now is the time to clean out the kitchen and get your temporary kitchen set up. The more prepared and organized you are, the smoother this transition will be!

8. Find your happy place.

It's no secret, remodeling can be very stressful. Your house has daily guests, it's not as clean as you like it, and your routine has been flipped upside down. We're sorry! We work so very hard to make it as easy as possible, but we realize it is still inconvenient. I always say, it's a temporary inconvenience that will end with something you've likely dreamed about for a very long time. Hang in there, friend! Find a local coffee shop that you can hang at when you need a break, and book yourself an extra massage or two. Check out our post filled with tips about [living through a remodel](#) for more help on how to keep your cool during a remodel.



Certifications and Why They Are Important

Our company decided many years ago to affiliate with the National Association of the Remodeling Industry (NARI) and our local chapter, NARI Pacific Northwest. Not only are these great resources for clients looking for qualified remodeling companies, but they are also great resource for the companies that join for keeping up to date on products, networking, continuing education, and certifications. Starting the certification process with NARI seemed like a natural extension of our company's morals and views, would allow our employees to take continuing education courses, and only better our company and give our clients more peace of mind in the long run.

What does it take to become certified through NARI? First and foremost, a commitment to learn and attend classes or be disciplined enough to self-study. Applicants must demonstrate technical skills, have business and project management expertise, and a tenure in the industry (based on the certification). If an applicant has proven, they meet the pre-requisites they can begin the certification process. Each certification requires multi-week preparatory courses. Once the courses are complete, a rigorous examination is taken by the applicant and overseen by a proctor that adheres to strict criteria. Once the applicant has passed the exam, they are officially certified and must take continuing education each year to keep their certification. They also get to rock some fancy letters after their name, here's what each letter stands for:

CR – Certified Remodeler, this was the first certification that Mitch received! To be eligible, you need to have 5 continuous years working in the industry, and 90% of the work volume must specifically be remodeling work. The Certified Remodeler course is 12-weeks long, followed with a test consisting of 200 questions. Certified Remodelers must meet 16-hours of continuing education per year to maintain this certification.

CRS – Certified Remodeling Specialist, is a service remodeler that specializes in masonry, electrical, plumbing systems, roofing, etc. The certification process is the same as the CR.

CRA – Certified Remodeling Associate, is designed for professionals that support the remodeling industry such as architects, designers, manufacturers, suppliers, and consultants. This certification is the same process as the CR.

CKBR – Certified Kitchen and Bath Remodeler, are for professionals who specialize in kitchens and bath remodeling. To be eligible, you are required to have 5-years in the remodeling industry working specifically with kitchens and bathrooms, and the company you are working for must meet a minimum number of kitchen and/or bathroom remodels per year. This was the second certification that Mitch sought, and the first certification that Debbie received. The course was similar as above, as was the test of 200 questions. Debbie was the first woman in Oregon to receive this certification. Each year Mitch and Debbie must submit 16 continuing education hours for recertification.

MCR – Master Certified Remodeler, these folks are veteran certified remodelers who have held their Certified Remodelers certification for 10 consecutive years and hold at least one other certification through NARI. They must also have served with their local NARI chapter, and be involved as a leader in their local community. This process includes an extra step of including 3 letters of recommendation. Mitch has gained this certification!

UDCP – Universal Design Certified Professional, Mitch holds this certification as well. Universal design specifically addresses many components around designing for ADA compliance, but in a residential application.

CLC – Certified Lead Carpenter, this certification is for professionals in the remodeling industry that have worked for a continuous 5-years, and at least 2-years as a lead carpenter. Being a lead carpenter means they oversee every onsite aspect of the project, management, trade contractors, scheduling, safety, administration, and customer satisfaction. After the course study there is a 180-question proctored examination.

CRPM – Certified Remodeling Project Manager, is for competent remodeling professionals that are well-versed in operational and business aspects of remodeling projects that are completed on time. This certification also requires a minimum of 2 continuous years in the remodeling industry and also to be employed by a company that operates in compliance



“Mitch and his crew were professional and dedicated to providing a stellar completed project that met our every expectation.”

LARI PETERSON

Planning Your Remodel The Spektacular Way

Whether you're remodeling your kitchen, adding a family room, or doing a whole house renovation, our team's design-build process ensures you will end up with the project you envisioned from the start.

Determine Your Needs

Each of our projects start with a meeting in your home to determine your timeline, budget, and goals for your space. We also establish a clear budget range for your project at this meeting. We consider this meeting our mutual interview to make sure we will be a good fit moving forward and can communicate well together.

Professional Services Agreement

Once we meet and agree to move forward, we move into what we call a Professional Services Agreement or PSA. This is when we create a design for your project, perform a feasibility study if needed, select materials, and write up a detailed estimate with a full scope of work. There are times where we do deconstruction and discovery, but we only do this if it is required to confirm unknown conditions and hopefully avoid any surprises after your project starts. During your PSA, you can enter into a Letter of Intent (LOI) at any time to place your project on our production schedule.

Let's Get this Project Started!

Here comes the fun part! After we have completed everything for your PSA and you have been placed on our production schedule, we begin coordinating your project. We plan everything about your renovation from start to finish so you are in the loop at all times! Furthermore, because of our well thought out, detailed schedules, we can secure our trade contractors for pre-determined time frames so your project stays on schedule. We continue to have open lines of communication with you throughout your renovation. Each project we do has a dedicated Project Manager as well as an onsite job book that you can access at any time. Each job book contains important information about your project so you can stay in the loop and be involved, but you are always welcome to speak with us directly!

Throughout your renovation, your home will be treated with care and respect. Our employees and trusted trades all understand that we are working on your home, so we treat it as if we were working on our own. Jobsites are left clean every night and we take extra care to ensure your comfort throughout the remodeling process!

Wrap Up

As your project nears completion, we will do a project walk through with you to answer any questions you may have about your new space. When we're all done, your job book is returned to our office. We will then return all owner's manuals, copies of inspections, and any other important documentation related to your project back to you. Should you need it, all of our work is covered under a one-year warranty which is laid out in your contract. We want you to have peace of mind knowing that the work we complete will last you many years!

We remain only a phone call or email away after your project is completed. Our company philosophy includes being there for you not only when you have questions about your renovation, but also when you need help with smaller projects, another remodel, or even just wanting to say "hello".

Because of our design-build process, friendly staff, and trusted trades, we are able to provide you with the highest level of customer service while bringing your remodeling vision to life! We're here for you when you're ready to start your next home project.

Five Design Tips for Your Forever Kitchen

When it's time to remodel the kitchen in your forever home, Specktacluar Home Remodeling can help ensure you and your family enjoy your remodel for years to come! Mitch Speck is a NARI Universal Design Certified Professional (UDCP) and is skilled in all aspects of universal design and ADA compliant residential remodeling. As we grow older, we want to consider design choices that prevent stooping, reaching, and falling to keep your kitchen space safe and accessible – while still being stylish and functional! Our team will help you design a kitchen that is optimized for your current and future needs! If you're thinking about remodeling your kitchen in the near future, here are a few features to consider:

1. Install a pullout pantry.

Pull out pantries are wonderful because they allow you to see everything at once without having to shuffle items around and put less strain on your knees and back. They also make great spaces to store your portable appliances like blenders, InstantPot, slow cookers, and the like.

2. Place your microwave at or below counter height.

Whether you have a freestanding or built-in microwave, having it counter height or below is easier on your back and shoulders. If you don't want to sacrifice counter space create a place for your microwave in a base cabinet. It's easier to set a heavy plate below you than to lift it above your shoulders. Spills are also less likely when removing hot food from the microwave at counter height or below.

3. Make corner cabinets accessible.

Corner cabinets provide quite a bit of storage but can be difficult to access. The bend-reach-lift motion can also be difficult for people with back problems, so let's minimize that! When adding corner cabinets, consider an option that will reduce the need to bend over/reach and dig. A traditional Lazy Susan is a good option, but we would also recommend drawers or shelves that slide out.

4. Pick drawers over doors.

Drawers eliminate the need to get on your knees and peer into the back of your cabinet to see what you have available. No more emptying your cabinet for one pot or roasting pan. Drawers make it easy to see all your kitchen items at once! What about traditional cabinets with slide outs? If you feel like you can't commit to drawers on your lower cabinets, slide outs are a good compromise. Keep in mind with the cabinet/slide-out option you lose storage space in each cabinet. Additionally, you have an extra step anytime you need to remove an item from your cabinet, you must open the door and then pull the slide out versus simply opening a drawer. Drawers just make sense.

5. Keep the sink close to the stove.

We will help you with the spatial layout of your kitchen, but its good to have a vague idea of where you want your key appliances to go. Plan to have your sink close to the stove. As we age, it's hard on our arms and backs to carry big pots full of water to and from the cooktop. If any spills happen along the way, you then have a slipping hazard. So, keep your sink close to your stove with a workspace in between.



“If you want excellent work with, worry free, extra clean, kind, honest hard working people that make you feel like family we would highly recommend Spectacular!”

KATHY KORB

Ten Things to Discuss with Your Contractor Before Work Begins

You've signed your contract, made your selections, and ready to begin work on your remodel. Right? Not quite! There's one more step we believe is important to have our projects run as smoothly as possible. Before work begins on your project, we like to have a meeting with you, our sales team, and your project manager, and possibly even trade contractors to make sure everyone is on the same page! During this meeting we do a walk-through of your project and discuss details that are often overlooked by other companies. These are the top 10 things we recommend discussing with your contractor before work on your home begins:

1. Work Days and Hours

Most companies have standard work hours, ours are Monday-Friday, 7:30am-4:00pm, but we do our best to accommodate our client's schedules and have been known to start a little later when asked! We do try to keep our weekends free of work so we can spend time with family and so you can have a little break from us. No matter who you are working with, it is important to have clear work hours laid out, so you know who to expect in your home and when to expect them.

2. Parking Spots

We need space to park our truck and/or trailer at your home, so we have access to our tools and supplies, but we certainly do not want to inconvenience you or your neighbors over a parking spot. Similarly, it's good to know when your trash and recycling pick-up takes place to ensure your cans are not blocked and are picked up as scheduled. While this may seem like a silly thing to go over, it is brief and is very helpful for our clients.

3. Entry and Security

Establish a way for your contractor to access your home. Some clients choose to have a key box on site while others are comfortable with their project managers keeping a copy on their key ring for the duration of their project. You'll want to also inform your construction team of any alarm systems you have. Most alarm companies will allow you to set a temporary code for your contractor that is separate from yours, that way when the job is done the code can be cancelled. This is a good time to talk about other security measures as well. For example, when we have work done on our house, we always make sure to communicate fences must stay closed for the safety of our dogs.

4. Best Form of Communication

Make sure you and your contractor have a complete list of phone numbers and email address and know who your on-site contact is. It's also nice to include an emergency contact, hopefully no one will ever need it, but it's smart to include it! This is a good time to establish your preferred method of communication, how you would prefer check-ins and how often you would like them. Job check-ins could be a summary sent daily or weekly to your email or via a text message, weekly meetings, updates written in your detailed job binder, or a phone call twice a week. Whatever your preference is, we want to know so we can be sure to meet your needs!



5. Working Zones and Site Protection

A huge reason we have these pre-construction meetings on-site is so we can discuss where site protection will need to go (ZipWalls, temporary walls, tarps, etc.) so that everyone understands where the construction zone will be. This meeting will help you determine what you need to move out of the work area, and what you may need to remove from walls. The latter isn't always necessary, but if there are large amounts of demolition and framing you will want to ensure any pictures or fragile items are protected from the rattling. For larger projects it's nice to have a "staging area" where materials and tools can be stored for your project. We like to find a spot together that will work for you! Usually a garage, side yard, or deck works great!

6. Location of Utility Shutoffs

During the walk-through we will locate the emergency shutoff for your water, gas, and electric panel. If there are appliances or circuits that absolutely cannot be shut off, like a deep freezer, pool pump, or fish tank, please let us know.

7. Household Workers

If you have a house cleaner, gardener, dog walker, etc. please let us know at this meeting! It's important to fill us in on when they are at your house so we can expect them. Also, food for thought, if I was having a major project done on my home, I would suspend a house cleaner until after the project. But you do you!

8. Pets

If you have pets and are keeping them on-site during construction, please have a plan to confine them and keep them out of the construction areas. We love pets (a lot!), but we know our time is better spent getting your house back to "normal" versus moving pets from room to room. We do suggest your pets have a meet and greet with the crew so they can become familiar with them, we find it helps their stress level throughout the project. Remodeling affects everyone in your home, even the animals!

9. Neighbors

If you haven't told your immediate neighbors that you are starting a remodel, this is a great day to do it! Your neighbors will likely be impacted by parking and noise, so it's kind to let them know ahead of time. If any of your neighbors are sensitive about parking spots or noise, please let your contractor know so we can be as courteous as possible.

10. The Details

At this meeting, we believe it is important to have a detailed schedule for you so you know who will be at your house and when. We would want the same if we were having work done on our house! If you have questions about the schedule, billing, or anything else, this is the perfect time to ask. Remember, we want you to be comfortable and prepared for your renovation before work begins, and any other reputable contractor should want the same!

Seven Reasons Kitchen Remodels Go Over Budget

We've put together a list of the most common reasons we see kitchen renovations go over the original budget – keep these in mind as you start planning your upcoming renovation!

Upgraded Finishes

The number one reason projects go over budget is owners choosing products outside of their budgets. Here are a few areas where costs can rack up quickly.

1. Cabinetry

Cabinet costs range widely depending on the cabinet line, finish, or materials you ultimately choose. It's helpful if you have an idea of what you want from the first meeting with us. If you want taller upper cabinets to maximize on storage, those are going to cost more. It helps if we know that information early on in the design process so we can better guide you in the selection process.

2. Special Features

There are so many special features you can add to your cabinet package, such as corner drawers, knife drawers, or special spice or wine racks. You'd be surprised how many options are available these days! Each added feature increases the cost of your cabinet package which is why it's important to consider how much you'll really use it.

3. Countertops

The cost for countertops ranges widely as there are many material options for you to choose from. If you have a specific material in mind, let us know so we can help you design the best kitchen for you that's within your budget.

4. Appliances

Like countertops, appliances have a wide cost range depending on the make, model, and features. To help you save on costs, we suggest clients go shopping and purchase appliances on their own. You'll want to do this before we meet to go over cabinets, so we have the appropriate information to design your kitchen. Don't worry, we will go over all of this with you when we enter our design contract (professional services agreement).

Hidden Costs That Can't Be Avoided

There are some circumstances that are outside everyone's control and must be resolved.

1. Unforeseen Existing Conditions

It would be really cool if we had x-ray vision and could see through walls, but we don't. And sometimes we find hidden "surprises" when we start demo. If we find something wrong when we start working on your home – we need to fix it. This isn't us trying to make more money, this is us abiding by local laws and ensuring your home is safe!

Project Puff Ups

These final reasons will guarantee to “puff up” the final costs of your project and, like material selections, are entirely in your control.

1. Changing Your Mind

Changing your mind on design choices midway through your project will result in a change order, which will slow your timeline and increase your costs. This is why we work so hard to ensure your material selections are finalized before work begins. With today's shipping delays, changing a finish or material mid-project can be a recipe for disaster. At the same time, we want you to love your kitchen when it's all finished! So, take the extra bit of thinking time in the beginning to be sure you love everything you have selected.

2. Scope Creep

This is the term we use when your kitchen remodel suddenly turns into a kitchen, dining room, and living room remodel. Again, this is why we take the extra time to plan your project with you before work begins!

We feel our unique design process has helped our clients keep their remodels within their budget. One final thought I'd like to leave you with, if you are [transparent with us about your budget](#), we can better guide you in the design process so you can stay within that budget.



“We are repeat customers with SHR, because the quality of the work that they do is exactly what we are looking for.”

JANE BERRY



Granite vs. Quartz

Which is Better?

An incredibly common question our clients ask us as they embark on their remodels, "Which is better, granite or quartz?" We are going to break down the pros and cons for each of these popular kitchen countertop materials.

Granite

Pros:

1. Longevity. Granite has been a tried-and-true countertop choice for many years. It is time tested and universally appealing. Granite is a wonderful addition that potential buyers love to see.
2. It's available in wide slabs. Granite slabs can come in all shapes and sizes, but it's more common to find slabs more than 70-inches wide (quartz slabs are seldom larger than 65-inches wide). Wide slabs means you will have fewer seams in your kitchen.
3. It can cost less. Now, if you select a high-end, exotic granite it will absolutely cost more than quartz, but the nice thing about granite is there are more budget-friendly options.
4. Natural Beauty. Granite is a natural material with patterns and textures that you won't see anywhere else. Every slab is unique which really lets you personalize your home.

Cons:

1. It's porous. Like other stone options, granite is not naturally resistant to moisture. It's best not to let spills and water rings sit too long since there is a chance they can stain your countertops.
2. It requires more maintenance. Granite is not a high-maintenance material – it just requires a bit more attention than quartz does. You'll have to be mindful of what cleaners and soaps you use with granite, and you'll also have to reseal it about every two to five years.
3. Most patterns are "busy". Granite has a lot of movement in the patterns, and we've found people either love that or hate it.
4. It's brittle. Don't get me wrong, granite is incredibly strong. However, it tends to break far easier than quartz does during installation. Most installers will patch cracks to cover the costs of a new slab, but that can add additional time to your project.

Quartz

Pros:

1. It's low maintenance. Quartz doesn't require sealing like granite and isn't as prone to staining. Quartz can react poorly with certain chemicals, so always make sure you check with your manufacturers cleaning and maintenance guide before you use a particular product.
2. Stronger than natural stone. While quartz is not immune to scuffs and stains, it's about as stain and scratch resistant as countertops can get since it's an engineered product. The resins and polymers used during the manufacturing process also make it harder to crack or break during installation.
3. It's popular. Quartz is a huge selling point for homebuyers and offers a larger return on investment if you are planning on selling your home in the future.
4. It offers consistent, clean styles. Quartz has solid, consistent coloring that makes it a natural fit in almost any kitchen! If you're looking for a countertop that isn't "busy" and functions like granite, this is it.

Cons:

1. It's more expensive. Less maintenance and greater strength usually equals a higher price tag.
2. It's not suitable for outdoor installations. While quartz is generally heat-resistant, it will not perform well outdoors. Over time its surface will fade and discolor from sun exposure while granite will survive sunlight and other weather elements with ease.
3. Slabs of the same color always look the same. Quartz slabs are predictable and always look the same from slab to slab. If you're looking for a truly unique countertop, you won't find that with quartz.
4. It isn't the real deal. As durable and innovative as quartz is, it won't ever be 100% natural or unique.

So, which is better, granite or quartz? We'll leave that up to you to decide since we are a team divided here at Spectacular Home Remodeling!



Contact Us

Thank you for downloading and reading our guide to Your Dream Kitchen Remodel. We hope that it provided valuable insight into how to begin your project.

For when you're ready, keep our contact info handy!

info@specktacularhome.com

(503) 668-0710

www.specktacularhome.com

