

1. Planning

- Identify how you want your completed kitchen to look. Collect ideas and pictures, keeping in mind your budget.
- Organise a preliminary design consultation with Allstar Kitchens to discuss your design ideas. Allstar Kitchens can advise you of approximate pricing and design solutions.
- Start researching your choice of appliances such as oven and cooktop, fridge/freezer, range hood, dishwasher, built-in coffee machine and microwave. The measurements of these will be required during the planning and design stage.

2. Design and Quote

- Appoint Allstar Kitchens as your kitchen designer and we will arrange a preliminary measure of the existing area and develop a suggested floor plan and initial design including narrowing down the selection of finishes to allow preliminary quoting
- Select and order appliances - selecting appliances early in the planning process is advised as the specifications will be required by the designer to incorporate into the design layout.
- Once the design is completed, the quote is finalised and the deposit is paid, then we can proceed to the financial and contractual arrangements for the joinery and trades.

3. Contract and Final Details

- Finalise contract and all the kitchen specifications including benchtops, splashbacks, lighting, flooring and appliances.
- Second progress payment is due to allow for the ordering of the materials for manufacture of cabinetry.
- Final check measure for manufacture of cabinetry. Cabinet mounted range hoods need to be provided at this stage.
- A job project timeline will be developed including an installation date (average 3-4 weeks)

4. Prior to installation

- Third progress payment is due prior to installation.
- Prior to installation electrician and plumber disconnect kitchen
- Old kitchen removal and any flooring replacement or removal completed.
- Electrician and plumber 'rough in' in preparation for new kitchen – placement of power points, light switches etc. confirmed at this stage.
- All other appliances including sinks and taps delivered on site

5. Installation

- Cabinetry (and laminated benchtops) installed. Measurement for stone benchtops occurs after cabinets are installed
- Stone benchtop installation usually 10 day after cabinets. Plumbing can be reconnected after benchtops have been installed.
- Tiled splashbacks can be installed after benchtops are installed.
- Glass splashbacks measured after stone benchtops are installed. Installation of splashback from 7-10 days after measure up.
- Electrician will complete reconnection after splashback has been installed.
- Final payment is due and will include any extras added after contract.

HANDY KITCHEN RENOVATION TIPS

When designing your kitchen functionality and layout needs to be thought about, as well as the design and look you want. There are lots of places that can give you inspiration about your design before you start. Use magazines, brochures, websites like Pinterest and Houzz, and even visit home shows, display homes and kitchen showrooms to help you visualise your new kitchen. Knowing what you don't like is as important as knowing what you want.

General Tips:

- It's important to share your budget with your kitchen designer – they can give the best advice if they have all the information.
- Working with a professional kitchen designer who knows how to get it right first time will save you money in the long run and cut down the work you have to do in sourcing different trades and suppliers
- The more decorative you make your kitchen, the more cost is added to the project. Consider what extras you can add later.
- Select good quality but timeless finishes – you will live with your kitchen for a number of years.
- Try and pick the most durable work surfaces you can afford
- Buying appliances through your kitchen design company may help you take advantage of package deals and special pricing.
- Maximise your benchtop space. Maximise your storage as well but be aware that too many wall cabinets can make a kitchen appear smaller.
- Don't forget lighting – particularly over work areas.
- Ensure that there is a warranty on all products in the kitchen – cabinets, benchtops, and accessories. The length and type of warranty may differ depending on the product but all products should have a warranty of some sort. Ensure your kitchen design fits the rest of your home particularly the adjoining rooms
- Choose surfaces with function as well as design in mind – some finishes look great but are susceptible to fingerprints and dirty marks.
- Make sure you allow enough room around kitchen islands to allow several people to be seated and moving around at the same time. Usually a minimum one metre clearance from all other items is the best.
- Wider and deeper drawers maximise the use of space.
- Designing and purchasing a new kitchen should be an enjoyable and value-adding experience – make sure you work with a designer that shares your enthusiasm.

Choosing colour:

Colour is one of the most emotional elements in interior design – it has the power to influence your mood. Some things to keep in mind regarding colour:

- Avoid dark colours in small spaces; it will only make them feel smaller particularly if there is a shortage of natural light. Light, cool and neutral colours create a sense of space.
- Dark, rich colour will make a space feel cosy and give more intimacy to the space.
- Don't get caught in changing fashions as your kitchen will last longer than the current trends - choose neutral coloured kitchen cabinets and benchtops and use paint and accessories to add colour – as these can be changed more easily later on to match changing trends. Changing a splashback can refresh a kitchen without a huge outlay in the future.
- When choosing a colour palette, don't forget flooring. If you are having a new floor it's recommended that you lay this before installing the new kitchen. If you are staying with your existing flooring, its colour will impact on your overall colour choices and it may limit how you can lay out your new kitchen.

Selecting the right benchtop

There is a huge variety in benchtop materials and there are a number of different types of colours and types to consider when selecting the right benchtop for your kitchen.

Laminate benchtops consist of layers of paper with a decorative overlay. Textured laminates are among the hardest-wearing and most affordable benchtop materials. Laminate can easily scratch and is difficult to repair. New types of edges are available to give laminate benchtops a more modern profile and can provide an inexpensive and stylish solution.

Natural Stone is stunning to look at and often provides a high end finish to a kitchen. Granite is tough and scratch resistant and is regarded as one of the best for kitchen surfaces. Marble is unique as no two pieces of marble are the same, which adds an instant timelessness and individuality.

Both Granite and Marble are porous and will require regular sealing to prevent moisture and liquids penetrating.

Reconstituted stone is a mixture of natural stone and resin, and is an excellent alternative to natural stone, as it's cost-effective, durable, easily maintained and are available in an immense array of both classical and modern colours.

Solid surface benchtops are acrylic options that offer the visual appeal of natural stone, without the seams. Hygienic, non-porous and renewable, they are also great for people who want an environmentally friendly kitchen.

Wood Timber bench tops add a touch of country charm and warmth to a kitchen design; they are popular for breakfast bar tops and work well when paired with other finishes like stone or solid surfaces. A timber surface requires regular sealing and is not scratch resistant.