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THE KITCHEN RENOVATION YOU WANT IS EASIER THAN YOU THINK.

by David Stokes, Owner, DM Stokes Home Renovations

ARE YOU READY TO RENOVATE YOUR KITCHEN? WHAT ARE YOUR GOALS? WHERE DO YOU BEGIN?

There are two parts to every kitchen project—design and renovation. Working with a professional designer and contractor will help you through the process.

Designing Your Kitchen

At the start of your project, you should have an idea as to how you would like your kitchen and cabinetry to function. A functional kitchen not only works well, feels good and looks great—it becomes the focal point and gathering place of your home. Are you considering an open concept? Do you want your kitchen visually tied into the rest of your home? Have you considered repurposing your existing space?





Do you want your kitchen built around an island? The island has become the most sought-after element in every kitchen.

Today's manufactured cabinetry offers an array of options. Most semi-custom cabinetry lines have options that will make your kitchen an organizational paradise with items like roll-out trays, pot and pan organizers, deep drawer cabinets, pantry cabinets, toe kick drawers and much more. However, items like these come at a cost. It is important to set a realistic budget for your cabinetry. A skilled designer with a strong knowledge of cabinetry products can design a kitchen that appears custom - without the custom-built price tag. However, your designer must know your cabinetry budget in order to meet your needs.

Open concept kitchens have been sweeping the design world lately. More than simply a way to reduce clutter, an open concept connects the kitchen to the rest of your home and forms a warm, centralized place for people to gather. Kitchen cabinet doors with clean, flush lines, islands with plenty of storage space and vast counter tops that become family meeting spaces are the keys to the open concept kitchen. Cabinet doors can tie your kitchen into the rest of your home. Open concept kitchens might be the lifestyle addition you're looking for, but the



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trick is in knowing what you can take away to open up your space. Your designer can show you. Walls and dividers you can do without—or counter tops that stop you from moving around freely. Open space is the key. There are many factors to consider with a kitchen renovation.

Renovating Your Kitchen

All kitchen projects consist of the same elements—demo work, construction, electrical, plumbing, mechanical, dry-wall, woodwork, painting, flooring, cabinetry installation, countertops, backsplash, appliances and appliance installation. And if designing your kitchen wasn't confusing enough, many homeowners find the actual renovation process to be the main roadblock to achieving their goals. Don't let this hinder your enthusiasm. Choose a contractor that specializes in kitchen renovation to put your mind at ease. A professional will have an in-depth knowledge and sensitivity towards the renovation process.

Many things can be done to make your renovation as convenient as possible. Your sink, range and oven can remain

functional throughout much of the process. Planning and scheduling are critical to an efficient kitchen renovation. Make sure your contractor gives you a precise schedule and a plan for working through your project. Proper scheduling for the installation of cabinets, countertops and flooring will keep your project moving smoothly. Countertops cannot be templated or installed until your cabinets are installed, while flooring, which is sometimes an afterthought when renovating a kitchen is, in most instances, installed before your cabinets—so the standard measurements for stoves, drop-in ranges and dishwashers will not be affected.

While renovating your kitchen is no small task, creating the kitchen of your dreams does not have to be a nightmare. Proper planning and working with qualified professionals are the keys to a successful renovation. Very talented and reliable artisans are right around the corner. Use them. Don't hesitate to book a consultation to see what kind of new life and beauty you can bring to your home. Enhance your lifestyle—and have fun in the process.

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