

Ask The Kitchen Guy Blog

November 12, 2010

“Q: Hey Kitchen Guy, what can I do to make sure my kitchen project gets done right and on budget?”

A: Here are my “KITCHEN COMMANDMENTS” for ensuring your kitchen remodel gets done right and meets your expectations.

1. Plan, plan and plan again. Do not start until your plan is complete. Remember you are remodeling the most important room in your home not shopping for furniture.
2. Remember, designing and remodeling a kitchen is a process.
3. Think **GREEN!** Most people only remodel a kitchen once in their life, even those who do it more than once rarely will do it in the same home twice. That means your new kitchen will be one of the prime selling features of your home. Accordingly, it makes sense to use eco friendly materials that figure to become more popular in the coming years.

Don't be afraid of using eco friendly products. Reasonably priced, eco-friendly green products are out there and a responsible kitchen design professional should be able to guide you during the design and planning phase of your project. If a kitchen designer can't explain the basics of Green Kitchen design to you move on.

Green kitchen design does not have to be difficult or expensive. Putting together green kitchens is fun and a great way to make sure your “Green Kitchen” investment pays dividends immediately and in the future.

See the “Reasonably Green” kitchen project overview from October 12th, 2010 on this blog.

4. Hire an experienced kitchen designer or firm to help create your plan and budget.

It can take many hours for a detailed plan and budget to be put together. It is not unreasonable to expect to pay a professional a fee to help assemble your plan and budget. The fee doesn't have to be a lot and many firms will offer to rebate the fee with the purchase of your materials.

Avoid designers or firms that charge by the hour then basically go shopping on your dime trying to squeeze free advice and or a design out of other firms, suppliers or retailers.



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5. Before construction starts or materials are ordered your plans and budget should be completed. They should include drawings, an assembly (sometimes referred to as a color board) of samples of the materials that will be used and where they will go. Last but not least they should include a detailed budget with some allowance for the unexpected.

*** Remember knowing how much you want to spend is not a budget it is a spending wish. Knowing how you are going to spend that amount on a per item basis is a budget!**

6. If your property is governed by community associations make sure the management and/or board of directors has approved your plans and materials .
7. Make sure you hire the right contractor(s) with experience doing exactly what you need done.