



**TrueSource**  
C A B I N E T S

**KITCHEN PLANNER**  
Bringing your dream to reality





# Designing your new kitchen



*While decorating shows on TV are fun and inspirational, the real life process of creating a new kitchen takes longer and involves many more “behinds the scenes” steps than first meets the eye. Here, TrueSource Cabinets spells out the steps to achieving your dream. The following pages will tell you about the process in more detail.*



## SO HOW LONG WILL ALL THIS TAKE?

### **Longer than a TV episode!**

The size and scope of your project will determine the time frame, which could be anywhere from four to six weeks for simple improvements or changes, to six or eight months or more for a full-scale remodeling.

### **Be aware of delivery times**

Timing also depends on product choices. Custom cabinets or special plumbing fixtures can require additional weeks for delivery.

Then there are some things that just have to wait their turn. Stone countertops, for example, may not be fabricated until the cabinets are installed, to ensure the best fit.

### **Sometimes, things happen**

Unexpected delays can occur if structural deficiencies are found when walls or floors are opened up. It's best to tell your designer if you have a deadline for your new kitchen. They can give you a realistic time estimate based on the parameters of your specific project.

# What do you want to do?



*Determining your priorities for a new kitchen –and sticking to them– will help you and TrueSource Cabinets make the best decisions about budget, design, layout and products.*

*Here's a questionnaire to get you started.*

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## About your project

- Y    N    Are you remodeling?  
Y    N    Building a new home?

How old is your home?  
\_\_\_\_\_

How long are you planning on staying there?  
\_\_\_\_\_

Approximately how big is your kitchen now?  
\_\_\_\_\_ ft. x \_\_\_\_\_ ft.

Are you thinking of expanding your kitchen?  
Adding on? Relocating the kitchen?  
\_\_\_\_\_

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## Your goals

- Y    N    Update the look of the room  
Y    N    Update the kitchen for resale of our home  
Y    N    Add more space  
Y    N    Open up the kitchen to another room  
Y    N    Update with the latest greatest appliances  
Y    N    Improve the function of the room  
Y    N    Improve the storage

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## Would you like to have

- Y    N    Eating area  
Y    N    Island  
Y    N    Pantry  
Y    N    Home office area  
Y    N    TV/entertainment area  
Y    N    Laundry area  
Y    N    Recycling center  
Y    N    Wine storage

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## About your family

Number and age of household members  
\_\_\_\_\_

Number and age of cooks  
\_\_\_\_\_

Do you anticipate:

- Y    N    New children arriving?  
Y    N    Children leaving the home?  
Y    N    Parent(s) coming to live with you?

Does anyone in your family have physical issues that should be considered (difficulty standing, walking, bending, poor eyesight, arthritis?) Describe:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

How often do you entertain?  
\_\_\_\_\_ times a month

Do you entertain large crowds or small groups?  
\_\_\_\_\_

# Have you thought about...?



*As you plan your new kitchen, you may have some special personal priorities. They could be environmental concerns, health and safety issues, longer-term family needs. Many health, safety and usability factors are addressed by TrueSource Cabinets with Access Standards. But no matter what your concerns, your TrueSource Cabinets professional will be able to offer solutions.*

## **ECOLOGICALLY RESPONSIBLE...**

Can materials from your old kitchen be donated?

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Can some products be recycled? Or reused in a basement or garage?

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Will new appliances be Energy Star rated?

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How much water will a new dishwasher save? A new faucet?

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Will the wood in your new cabinets, countertops or floors come from a sustainably managed forest? Sustainable wood products — products made from forests that grow quickly and are easily replenished — have become more popular. Examples of fast-growing species are bamboo, Lyptus, cane, and some maple.

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## **HEALTH FRIENDLY...**

A thoughtfully designed kitchen can contribute to your family's health, safety and well-being. For example:

Excellent ventilation is essential to remove cooking odors and grease that can affect air quality. Proper ventilation also removes humidity that can contribute to mold.

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Water quality issues can be addressed with a variety of filter types.

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Sharp knives and cleaning products can be stored safely out of the reach of children.

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If anyone in your home is highly sensitive and/or allergic, special cabinet finishes and materials can be specified to minimize problems.

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Non-slip flooring can help prevent falls.

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Proper use of GFCIs (ground-fault circuit interrupters) can prevent shocks.

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Can you use recycled countertop materials?

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Can you use recycled flooring?

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How energy-efficient will your new lighting be?

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Do you want a recycling center?

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A composting area?

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Is this a good time to change to new, more efficient windows?

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If any walls are going to be opened, can you add more insulation?

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Will new finishes and materials be low-VOC?

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## **USER FRIENDLY...**

All kitchens should function beautifully for their users, but it's worthwhile to think about any long-term changes anticipated in your family.

Will the kitchen be used by someone who might prefer to work while seated?

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Will it be used by anyone relying on a wheelchair, walker, cane or other device? If so, is aisle space adequate?

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Is there enough lighting on countertops, and even inside cabinets, for someone with diminished eyesight?

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Can the dishwasher be raised to a more back-friendly height?

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Can rollouts and pullouts make cookware and dishes more accessible?

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Will the right flooring make standing more comfortable?

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Are faucet handles easy to operate?

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White, wood tones, colors?  
Streamlined or decorative?  
Traditional, Casual, contemporary?



## What's your look?

Visit a friend's kitchen you love and take pictures, use magazine clippings of featured kitchens, photos you've found online, or bring any other material you want to show us the things you like. This will help TrueSource Cabinets professionals pinpoint your favorites. Note what you love about the rooms you brought in: the color, the materials, a special detail or just the overall tone. The more specific you are, the more TrueSource Cabinets can work with you to define your style.



## DIY? Yes, No or Maybe?

The success of your kitchen depends on the quality of the installation. In inexperienced hands, cabinet doors and drawers may not align properly, countertop and wall edges may not come together precisely, and the overall look can be a disappointment.

If you're thinking of doing it yourself, realistically consider your skills and time available. Are you generally handy? Do you have the right tools? Have you tackled a project like this before? Do you have any help? Do you like doing projects like this? Would you be better off handling some tasks like painting, wallpapering or installing a sink or floor; versus doing the whole job?

TrueSource Cabinets can work with DIYers to create a plan and supply cabinets and other materials.

# Setting your budget range

*What does a kitchen cost? You ultimately decide by the scope of your project, the products you select and the services you'd like. (Of course, labor rates in your area have some bearing too.)*

## WAYS TO SAVE



Set priorities so you know where to allocate your dollars.

Don't move plumbing, mechanical systems or walls unless it will greatly improve the space.

Avoid changing your mind once products are ordered and installation begins.

Have a clear set of specifications before comparison shopping.

Be sure to compare exactly the same products, not just similar ones. The price for the same model of faucet, for example, will vary by finish. Granite prices vary by grade.

Everyone shops online, but it's important to visit showrooms and be sure what you see online is what you think it is.

With a wide variety of quality products available, there's a kitchen for almost any budget, ranging from the lovely to the super deluxe.

To share a few examples: a large sow-stopper of a kitchen with luxurious materials in a major metro area could start at more than one hundred thousand dollars and go well beyond that. However a lovely modest makeover in a smaller town might be achieved for around \$20,000 to \$25,000.

## Kitchen Remodeling Cost

|                                     |            |
|-------------------------------------|------------|
| <u>Design Fees</u>                  | <u>4%</u>  |
| <u>Installation</u>                 | <u>17%</u> |
| <u>Appliances &amp; Ventilation</u> | <u>14%</u> |
| <u>Cabinetry &amp; Hardware</u>     | <u>29%</u> |
| <u>Countertops</u>                  | <u>10%</u> |
| <u>Lighting</u>                     | <u>5%</u>  |
| <u>Flooring</u>                     | <u>7%</u>  |
| <u>Doors &amp; Windows</u>          | <u>4%</u>  |
| <u>Walls &amp; Ceilings</u>         | <u>5%</u>  |
| <u>Faucets &amp; Plumbing</u>       | <u>4%</u>  |
| <u>Other</u>                        | <u>1%</u>  |

## HERE ARE SOME TIPS FOR SETTING YOUR BUDGET

- **Keep your priorities front and center.** A \$500 range or a \$10,000 one? A \$100 sink or one that's \$3,500? A \$4 polished brass knob or a \$98 crystal model? What's important to you?
- **Cabinetry and hardware generally run about 29% of your investment, appliances and ventilation can be 14% and countertops typically account for around 10% of the total project cost.**
- **Remember that installation can be about 17% of the budget.**
- **When it comes to resale, check with real estate professionals to find out specifically for your neighborhood what the return would be for a new kitchen. National statistics can give you a general idea, but what matters most is your neighborhood.**
- **Find out how much faster your home would sell with a new kitchen.**
- **Discuss your budget with TrueSource Cabinets. They work a variety of price ranges, and can tell you up front whether they're the right fit for your project.**
- **TrueSource Cabinets can also help you get the most value for your investment.**

# How will it come together?



*While it may not be fun having your kitchen torn out and your household disrupted, proper planning can alleviate some of the stress. Get a jump start with our checklist here.*

## 1 – THINK ABOUT...

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- Where will products go before installation? In the garage? On a porch? Living room or dining room?
- How will they be delivered? A back door into the kitchen? Or through the rest of the house?
- How will your old kitchen be removed?
- Where will you put a dumpster if needed?
- What hours will the crew be in your home?
- Who do you talk to if you believe there's a problem? The crew or someone else?
- What happens if I want to make a change after the project starts? Whom do you contact?

## 2 – REMEMBER TO...

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- Ask for a written schedule
- State your preferences about music, smoking and eating on the premises
- Prepare an alternate kitchen, such as by placing a microwave and small fridge near a bathroom sink
- Keep pets and children out of the work area. Close off the rest of the house as much as possible
- Remove artwork on walls adjoining the kitchen, since hammering can jar them
- Communicate in advance with neighbors so they know what to expect
- Be accessible... let the crew or general contractor know how to reach you

## 3 – KEEP ON SCHEDULE BY...

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- Have products you supply on hand before work begins (remember there can be long lead times)
- Don't substitute a product without telling your designer (even small changes can have a big impact)
- Keep any changes to a minimum after construction starts

