

7 Ghastly Kitchen & Bath Remodeling Mistakes You're Guaranteed to Make on a Budget.

(Or When You're Too Stubborn to Hire a Design Professional, But Desperately Need One)

*Ever walked into a kitchen or bath and instantly thought
"Ahhhhh, so nice" or "Ewwwww, not so nice?"*

*Ever wanted to completely transform your kitchen or bath
but didn't know how or if it was even conceivably within your budget?*

A true kitchen or bath remodel can be a fairytale come true...or a nightmare in the making – but that's just me... being honest. While the process is easy to navigate for a professional, it can leave you in tears, a fit of fury, or bottom's up in a wine glass – no doubt! So, what are the common mistakes most homeowners make while remodeling their kitchen?

Well, let us share these **7 ghastly pitfalls** that most homeowners make while attempting their kitchen or bath remodel for the first time. It's important to note that most of these mistakes can also be applied to the remodel of a laundry room, wet bar, library, master suite, bathroom, mudroom, entertainment center, or home office. So...are you ready to avoid project sabotage & create success? Well, then, let's get cookin' and see just "who" you are!

Mistake #1: The Antsy Annie: Underestimating the Time It'll Take to Realize Your Vision

So, you've finally decided on a kitchen remodel, then, have you? Well, I'm not going to lie, it takes a grand coordination of effort, labor, and design to make your master plan a reality. With so many details it is a challenge to have thought this whole process through. Not to worry, we can help. We know you want to love your space and you probably have a great design in mind. BUT (yes, the dreaded BUT)...There are contractors, suppliers, designers, delivery drivers, and tradesmen to schedule, and YOU will be tirelessly attempting to coordinate the timing and schedules of availability for everything. Not to mention product ordering, deliveries & returns. Sounds exhausting already, doesn't it?

It's important to know there are ALWAYS delays when dealing with this many people at once (Because let's face it, not everyone is as "on-the-ball" as you!). And this can lead to some major mis-communications with a big "oops" on top! Without a streamlined way to communicate with everyone, how will everyone know what to do? Getting everyone's "ducks in a row," is the first advantage to hiring a design professional.

Our "Super Power:" We, at ek•kitchens&design, give you a realistic time frame based on our years of experience – there's no fudging on our part – we serve it to you straight up! We have developed professional relationships with a variety of suppliers and contractors you will need to actually pull off your remodel...within your budget. Rest assured, we have already thought of everything you will inevitably forget – so you don't even have to try to remember! As in whether light bulbs were ordered along with the new lights!

Mistake #2: The Frugal Frieda: Misjudging the True Cost of the Remodel

You've thought of everything...or have you (dun-dun-duuun)? Your grand vision probably includes tile back-splashes, granite counters, infinite cabinets made of the finest woods with beveled glass and frosted panes, tied together with the highest quality floor material you can find...right? But let's be honest, unless you have an endless trust fund, a private investor, or a Sugar Daddy, your vision probably isn't going to happen and meet your budget. Things like: delivery fees, supplies, tax, shipping, storage etc. Why? Because all those little tedious hidden costs (that right now you are oblivious to) are going to come back to bite you in the...well, the arm (Yea, I'll just say arm – but you know what I'm really saying.)!

Our “Super Power:” We provide you with the best solutions and products that meet your budgetary needs, while still giving you that luxurious feel. We provide guidance on creating a great design that meets code, showcases your personality, and helps you love your space more than you ever dreamed possible. We pre-quote everything! That's right... we literally pre-quote each material category to ensure you know upfront what your cost will be – we don't believe in surprises. By selecting specific materials, we can control and limit your kitchen remodel sticker shock!

Mistake #3: The Optimistic Ollie: Not Understanding How Long It Takes to Get Materials

Oh dear Ollie! Optimism is good, but when it comes to a kitchen remodel, being realistic will save you a lot of freaking headaches! The phrase “out of stock” is a response that may literally make you want to bang your head against the wall (more than once) - especially when you find that “oh-so-perfect” set of appliances, counter tops, and cabinets, and then two or three of the pieces are on backorder. This can literally set your whole project back for weeks, causing a slew of scheduling issues, drama, and tears (Yes, people actually cry over counter tops.). So, instead of losing your mind over scheduling nightmares, why not let us order everything, work with the contractors, and ensure that all of the colors and model numbers are correct, every time, so that your great design happens the first time (instead of the fourth time)?

Our “Super Power:” Let us be the bad guys...seriously! We can ensure shipping and arrival schedules more accurately and have the ability to efficiently coordinate the time line of all product arrivals. It's good to have friends ‘in the biz,’ and we already know exactly who we are working with on the supplier end. So, by maintaining those relationships, we are able to facilitate a faster way for you to love your space – skipping all the tears and drama. We actually want you to sip wine while loving your kitchen...not because of your kitchen! With all of these fabulous things to consider already, you might understandably be starting to wonder if doing this all yourself makes any sense at all. A kitchen remodel is truly is a huge investment in the future of your home, whether you live in a studio apartment or a 5 bedroom house – and we want you to not only love your space but enjoy the process as well!

Mistake #4: The Matching Maddie: Being Overwhelmed by Match Colors, Textures, etc.

So, you've looked at 300 kitchen remodel magazines, and now...you got this. Maybe? Uh, well, maybe not. The budget for those “out-of-this-world” examples you're eying is most likely completely through the roof. And mixing and matching the right textures, sizes, materials and scale could leave you a bit overwhelmed. So, let me help you out here. With over 15 years of remodeling and new construction experience, we have a wealth of knowledge to offer. To be honest, I've literally encountered almost every kitchen blunder imaginable (Yes, even some of the ones we're talking about.) – so you don't have to! We're here to rescue you from making that huge mistake your kitchen just can't recover from!

Our “Super Power:” We make it simple! You can trust us to select and focus your color, texture, and material choices down to just 2 or 3 in each category. This way, we can ensure everything in your new kitchen will match and coordinate well (no matter what you choose), and your space will elicit that “great design” response you envisioned. Being able to show off how much you love your space is half the fun (ok, well, probably more than half)!

Mistake #5: The Clueless Cathy: Overlooking Key Design & Layout Considerations

Do you really know how you use the kitchen & in the most efficient way? Have you considered the needs of your family? And how you shop? Do you have prep cook assistance, or do you send everyone away because you don't want to trip over them? Do you need to be able to entertain larger groups? Can you walk freely around in your dream kitchen, or will you be running through an obstacle course to get from A to B? Can you find everything easily & is there enough storage? Do you know code specifications? Are you prepared for an inspection? Are you feeling overwhelmed already? A kitchen remodel doesn't have to be a disaster...but it definitely can be! Observing how you naturally use your existing kitchen will help spot layout options not previously considered. We then incorporate those observations into easy layout changes to make your kitchen awesome.

Our “Super Power:” We make sure your kitchen flows – even if you don't have a clue what that means! We work diligently to identify exactly what you need to organize your space, without overfilling it or leaving empty, usable space. It is tempting to want to maximize all of your space and add cabinets to the ceiling and around every available wall space – which totally works if you're creating an industrial kitchen. But you want it to feel like a home. Cabinets to the ceiling can appear useful until you want to install track lighting above them to angle the light through the room. Oops! And what if cabinets to the ceiling close in the space and make it feel too small? Another big oops! We want you to love your space. Your home's energy should be your comfort and balance lifeline, creating peace and cooperation between your home and your lifestyle. So, we'll be sure to point out all these little “nuggets of knowledge” before you go and make an “oops” you'll regret! And sometimes point out where “less” is “more”!

Mistake #6: The Know-It-All Katie: Product Knowledge Influences Selection

After spending weeks upon weeks of assembling your dream images, you get a reality check. BOOM! That soapstone counter is not made for battle. It's so soft that it scratches easily. What? Bamboo, while efficient and eco-friendly, may not be perfect for teenagers. Wow! The flooring you selected is so soft that high heels leave dents, and you've got to place slip pads under all of your furniture to keep it looking spiffy. On top of that, the tile you chose for the back splash costs more than your entire budget! What the heck is happening here? To add fuel to the fire, choosing the correct size refrigerator, sink, and stove is important as well. You're thinking it about it now, aren't you? Do you actually have room to fit that super deluxe model through the door and get it into your kitchen? You know, the one that arrives tomorrow? Can you handle cooking on six burners at once? Are you feeding a family of three or eight? Do you require energy efficiency or great design? What about the texture and colors? Ok, I'll stop...but fitting the proper products to your project is critical to success.

Our “Super Power:” Just breathe! We can help you identify the correct products for your family, based on all these factors. Not to worry! We will help you look like the ultimate design guru when you explain all this to your friends – because once they see your new amazing kitchen, they're sure to get the kitchen remodel bug, too!

Mistake #7 – The Nervous Nancy: Remodel Creep Gone Awry

Once you get the remodel bug, it spreads! But it's normal, so don't panic just yet. You'll be excited about your new kitchen remodel, happy that you stayed within your budget, and then, all of a sudden...you'll get this insistent urge to remodel your laundry room and the half bath while you are at it. Mistake? Or perfect timing? What do you do?

Ok, let me step in right here...Because of potential costs (unless you have that endless bank account) and possibly a lack of available use of your space, this can end in disaster if not done correctly. What do I mean? I mean you will be eating out AND going to the laundromat for a full two months simultaneously. Doesn't that sound like fun? Probably not! This can

add up fast, furiously eating away at your resources. Honestly, to “love your space” one room at a time makes more sense – unless you’re willing to increase your budget, extend your deadline, and not live in the house (And if so, let’s talk!). Additional rooms need to be considered individual projects, with their own specifications, scopes, and budget.

Our “Super Power:” We help you, help yourself! We are happy to do whatever we can to help you transform your space; however, we also want make sure your initial project is complete from A-Z before we start on the next great design for you. We can handle multiple rooms if you can...but we’ll give you the whole truth before biting off any multiple-room chunks!

So after all that, are you still ready to move right into a full fledge kitchen remodel?

Of course you are! While we’re trying to give you the full gamut of everything that can (and most likely WILL) go wrong, we want you to know that with us by your side, all of these seemingly overwhelming mistakes will completely fall on OUR plate...and not on your head! I’ve literally seen it all when it comes to kitchen “WOW’s” and “OOPs,” and I can say with full confidence that we are ready to help you “love your space” today!

Our goal is simple: To celebrate your kitchen remodel success and connect YOU more with your family in a space you love!

Ready to embark on your own kitchen remodel journey?

Love your Life. Love Your Home.

Please contact **ek•kitchens&design** at www.ekkitchendesign.com for more information or to book a Design Consultation, please call **970-531-6860**.