

Is Kitchen Remodeling a Good Investment

So, you have made the decision to remodel your home. Kitchen remodeling is one of the first rooms that homeowners explore with regard to renovations. The kitchen is the main gathering place in the home for families and friends. It is the area where socialization happens frequently, so it makes perfect sense to choose to remodel this room in your home first. The project can be extremely fun and should be looked upon as such. There are so many small changes that can be made to completely transform this room that it is mind boggling. Let us talk a bit



about whether this remodeling project is a sound financial decision. First, you should look at

the long-term picture. Are you remodeling the kitchen for your own preferences, or will you be selling the home at any point in the future? Either way, renovations to the kitchen can help save money in the future. If you are planning to stay in the home, you can employ some new choices that can help save on your monthly utility bills. You can opt for new energy efficient windows that can save you on your monthly electric payments. You can install low flow faucets to save on water consumption. You can also buy appliances that are more energy efficient as well. You will also experience personal satisfaction that your new kitchen is more operational and updated than it was previously.

If you are planning on selling your home in the future, you can expect a very significant return on your investment. If you ask any realtor, they will tell you that one of the first things a potential buyer is interested in is the kitchen. If your kitchen is fresh and updated with contemporary finishes

(counters, cabinets, flooring) it will make your home stand out against homes that have a more dated kitchen. You can expect to get a return of at least 40% of your remodeling investment when you go to list your home. You can get a higher sales price due to the upgrades.

A home kitchen makeover is a very prudent choice, especially if you can only remodel

one room. The kitchen is central to the home and you spend a lot of time there cooking, eating and socializing. The benefits of new and updated appliances and other elements far outweigh the costs you may incur. You will be surprised at how far you can get on your proposed budget. When your project is finished, you will realize it was money well spent.

Tips for Organizing Your Home

Here are 8 very useful tips on organizing your home. Taking that first step is the most important part of organizing your home. So now let's get started on step one. This is critical because you can't get to where you want to go unless you know what that "where" looks like. How do you want this room to function? How do you want to feel when you're in it? What do you want to do in this room? What is the real purpose of this room?

Tip #1
Get a pad of paper and pen and walk through each room of your home and write down what you see. It is important not to be overwhelmed. Try doing this systematically.

For example, here is what you might see in your home entry way: shoes, unopened newspapers, mail and circulars that are left at your door, keys, pet toys, coats, sweaters and more. Now write down what can be done to eliminate this clutter.

Tip #2- Get into a Routine
Sounds simple doesn't it - well take it from me it's one of the hardest tasks to do. As a teacher, I have always found this has helped me "organize" my day at school for lessons planning, staff meetings and have always found it effective - so, guess what? I now do it for organizing the home. For example, with the children if they have left any toys lying around after playing with them I encourage them to put them away in their "tidy box" or on the shelf.

Tip #3 - Organize Storage
All things in the home must have a "Home" that's one of the things I say to my kids. Why? Because when something is not seen (in the closet) you can get the False Feeling of it's all organized. On the shelves divide up sweaters, blouses, the clothes you wear now. As for racks - great for shoes.

Tip #4 - Organize your kitchen
Organize your cabinets for plates, Tupperware, guest tableware - separately if possible, if not, separate shelves. Another great (often overlooked) storage facility is the "Dishwasher" - storage and "purpose" rolled into one!

Tip #5 - Organize the Bathrooms
Ideally, if you have the space and children two bathrooms are great. Make sure that shelves for the toothpaste are just the 'right' height for the children in their bathroom. In addition, keep no make up or any potentially dangerous articles in

the children's bathroom within reach!

Tip #6 - The master grocery list

It's been one the greatest time savers in our home. Basically I have a 'general list' that includes the 'basics' then 'specifics' including favorite items that my children would like in the week and then 'luxuries' the items that we would like but don't need.

Tip #7 - Organize the Garage

Start out by making piles, for example: Yard tools, hand tools etc. Begin by clearing off the work bench if you have one. You might want to purchase some storage containers for the things you have in the house you want to save. Label the containers and stack them in the garage. You can buy hooks to hang rakes, shovels, hoses, bicycles etc

Tip #8 - Have a garage sale

After you go through the house and garage, you will end up with many things you no longer want. The most fun way to get rid of these items is by having a garage sale. You will be amazed at the amount of money you can possibly earn and what you don't sell you can give away or donate.

Choosing the Right Auto Repair Shop for Your Vehicle

The National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence (ASE), a non-profit organization that tests and certifies the competence of individual automotive repair technicians, offers the following tips on choosing a repair facility.

Look for a repair facility before you need one; you can make better decisions when you are not rushed.

Ask friends and associates for their recommendations.

Consult local consumer organization about the reputation of the shop; inquire about the number, nature, and resolution of complaints.

Do not choose a shop based only on a convenient location.

You probably won't find hospital-clean conditions, but look for a tidy, well-organized facility, with vehicles in the parking lot equal in value to your own and modern equipment in the service bays.

Ask if the shop usually handles your vehicle make and model or type of repair. Some facilities specialize.

Look for signs of technician competence. The customer area should display trade school diplomas, certificates of advanced course work, and ASE certifications-a nationally recognized standard of technician competence.

Look too for community service awards, plaques for

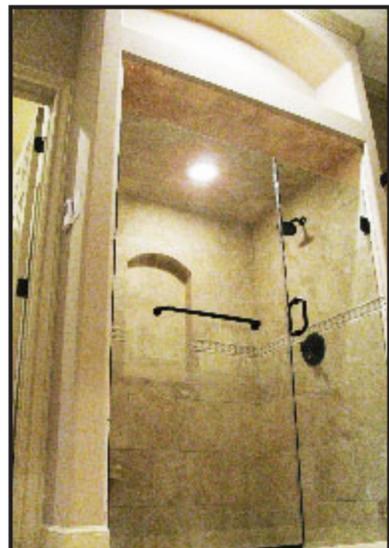
civic involvement, customer service awards, membership in the Better Business Bureau and other consumer groups.

Professionally run establishments will have a courteous, helpful staff. The manager, service writer, or technician should be willing to answer your questions.

Labor rates, fees for testing and diagnostic work, guarantees, methods of payment, etc. should be posted.

Feel free to ask for the names of a few customers as references. Call them.

Start with a minor job. Reward good service with repeat business and more complex work.



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CONSIDERING BUILDING A DREAM HOME OR JUST STARTING A FAMILY

VL Homes is committed to fulfilling the dreams and imaginations of fellow West Texas homeowners. Focused on developing a trusting relationship with our clients to better accomplish your goals. VL Homes can help you express your home's character with quality craftsmanship and exclusive design techniques tailored to the desire of each homeowner.

WHAT SETS US APART

We are dedicated to conducting the planning and building of your new home in a customer-focused manner. We will build your home with the finest quality materials and craftsmanship, with careful attention to every detail. With that in mind our goal is to help you design and build a home that fits you and your family's every need.

GETTING STARTED

VL Homes builds for all dreams and lifestyles. From starter homes to retirement, we are proud to accommodate you. If you are unsure about a floor plan, let us show you some of our models to help get you started. Whether you build the exact plan or adapt it for your lifestyle, VL Homes will assist you every step of the way.

