DESIGNING KITCHENS - CREATING MEMORIES

THE RENOVATION GUIDE

TRUSTED GUIDE FOR HOMEOWNERS STARTING THEIR RENOVATION JOURNEY — WHAT TO EXPECT, WHAT TO PLAN FOR, AND HOW TO STAY ON COURSE.

FROM THE OWNER

Here at Cedars and Birch Kitchens, we get it — renovations can be tricky. That's why we offer a range of cabinetry options, from solid contractor-grade to top-tier custom styles, so you get exactly what fits your project and budget.

With 13 years in homebuilding and contracting, I've seen plenty of surprises along the way. Our job is to help you navigate those bumps and create a living space you're proud of. When you're happy, the rest just falls into place.

We're excited to work with you!

Welcome to Your Renovation Journey

We're so happy you're considering a home remodeling project.

At Cedars & Birch Kitchens, we understand how exciting—and sometimes overwhelming—it can be to take this next step. It's not just a renovation; it's an investment in your home, your lifestyle, and your everyday comfort. That's why we're here: to guide you through the process with care, clarity, and a bit of joy.

Why We Created This Guide

From the very beginning, our mission has been to design beautiful, functional spaces while making the experience as smooth and reassuring as possible for homeowners like you. We know how important it is to feel confident and supported along the way, which is why we created this guide.

Inside, you'll find helpful advice from our design and construction team, along with simple tools to get you started:

- a kitchen measuring guide
- a budgeting workbook
- and ideas for staying focused on your vision

Our goal is to reduce the guesswork and help you feel informed, inspired, and ready for what's ahead.

While every remodeling journey has its ups and downs, we hope this guide helps you feel more comfortable and excited about what's to come.

Once you've had a chance to read through it, we'd love to connect—stop by our showroom or reach out to start a conversation about your home, your ideas, and how we can help bring them to life.

Here's to a beautiful transformation—
and a journey you can truly enjoy.

START GATHERING INFORMATION

One of the best ways to kick off your kitchen or bath project is by collecting images that speak to you. Whether it's magazine clippings, photos of homes you admire, or a Pinterest or Houzz board, visuals help tell the story of what you're drawn to. A picture can communicate style and tone in ways words can't.

At this early stage, don't hold back. Explore freely. Save anything that grabs your attention — whether it's the cabinet color, layout, lighting, or a specific piece of hardware. You can always refine your collection later.

While you're gathering ideas, think beyond the cabinets themselves. Consider the feel of the space — is it cozy and classic, modern and clean, or somewhere in between? Make note of any must-haves like deep drawers, open shelving, or your favorite hardware finish. Also pay attention to functionality: where things are placed, how storage is used, and how the space flows.

And remember, you don't have to navigate this alone. At Cedars & Birch, we offer a free 90-minute design consultation with a certified, independent interior designer. It's a great opportunity to turn your ideas into a practical, cohesive plan that fits your lifestyle and budget.

Let your inspiration lead the way — we'll help bring it to life.

Pro Tip: As you save images, jot down quick notes about what you like in each one. You'll thank yourself later when it's time to make decisions.

Also refine your search to fit the dimensions of your kitchen. Don't fall in love with 9' ceilings if you only have 7&1/2 to work with!!

START WITH YOUR VISION!

PLAN YOUR BUDGET

You are in control of your budget

A kitchen renovation is one of the most rewarding — and most significant — home improvement projects you can undertake. It can enhance your daily experience, improve your home's value, and reflect your unique style. But to get the most out of your remodel, the key is clear and intentional planning — starting with a realistic, all-inclusive budget.

One of the most empowering aspects of planning a renovation is knowing that you are in control of how much you spend. But with that control comes responsibility — and that means going beyond guesswork. This guide is here to help you think clearly, plan wisely, and feel confident about every dollar you allocate.

Don’t Guess Get Educated

Many homeowners underestimate the full scope of what a kitchen renovation includes. Cabinets and countertops are just part of the picture. Infrastructure work, appliances, permits, and finishing details all impact your bottom line. Rather than guessing, it’s essential to research actual costs — and we’re here to help you do that.

Cedars and Birch Kitchens brings decades of experience to the budgeting table. In this guide, we’ll walk you through each cost category, help you avoid common mistakes, and share a proven strategy that puts you in control of both design and finances.

Be Realistic and Stay Grounded

Excitement is great — but so is realism. We’ve seen too many renovations go off the rails because budgets were based on best-case scenarios or vague ballpark figures. That’s why we emphasize honesty and practicality in every project we take on. We’ll help you dream big and stay grounded, so the end result is something you’ll love — without financial regret.

Step 1 : Set Your Renovation Budget

Before diving into specific cost categories, start with your hard budget total — the maximum amount you are comfortable spending for the entire renovation. This number will serve as the foundation for all your decisions.

Get Organized: Click here for an easy to use Spreadsheet

Stick to Your Budget — No Matter What

At Cedars and Birch, we strongly believe you should stick to your budget no matter what. Too often, homeowners get swept up in the excitement of upgrades and blow past their intended spend — leading to unnecessary stress and long-term regret. We help you avoid that trap.
As your trusted partner, Cedars and Birch provides expert advice to help you:

- Make value-driven decisions
- Avoid costly scope creep
- Identify smart trade-offs
- Balance your wants with your needs

Whether you're working with $20,000 or $120,000, we help you create a beautiful, functional kitchen within your financial comfort zone.

Pro Tip: For the best return on investment, budget 5–10% of your home's value for a kitchen or bathroom renovation. This keeps your spending in line with potential resale value and avoids over improving. Cedars & Birch Kitchens offers expert guidance to help you make smart design choices, manage costs, and create a stylish space that adds lasting value to your home.

STEP 2: UNDERSTAND WHAT'S INCLUDED IN A KITCHEN RENOVATION BUDGET

Category	Estimated Cost Range	What Affects Cost	Your Estimate
Cabinetry	$6,000 – $20,000+	Style, custom vs. stock, finish, hardware	
Countertops	$2,000 – $8,000+	Material (granite, quartz, laminate)	
Flooring	$1,500 – $5,000	Material, area size, subfloor prep	
Backsplash	$500 – $2,000	Tile material, size, pattern complexity	
Paint & Drywall	$500 – $2,000	Prep work, wall repair, finish quality	
Plumbing	$1,000 – $4,000	Fixture relocation, pipe upgrades	
Electrical	$1,500 – $5,000	Lighting layout, panel upgrades	
Appliances	$3,000 – $12,000+	Brand, smart features, built-ins	
Permits	$200 – $2,000	City, scope, structural work	
Demolition	$500 – $2,500	Wall removal, cabinet demo, debris	
Lighting Fixtures	$300 – $2,000	Number of fixtures, style, placement	

GETTING YOUR HOME READY FOR CONSTRUCTION

Clear Out the Kitchen

Start by fully emptying the renovation zone. This includes:

- Removing everything from cabinets, drawers, and open shelves
- Clearing off countertops and packing up small appliances
- Taking down window treatments, wall art, and any hanging fixtures
- Relocating or disposing of existing appliances as

Set Up a Temporary Kitchen Space

While your kitchen is under construction, you'll need a place to handle basic meals and snacks. A simple setup in a laundry room, basement, or dining area can include:

- Microwave, toaster oven, or portable cooktop
- Mini fridge or cooler
- Coffee maker and electric kettle
- Disposable plates, cups, and utensils
- Nearby water access (bathroom or laundry sink)

Preparing and freezing meals in advance—or planning for takeout—can also help reduce stress during this time.

Relocate Fragile and Valuable Items

Remove anything delicate from nearby areas to protect it from dust or vibration. Be sure to:

- Safely store artwork, electronics, and décor
- Empty nearby closets or storage spaces if walls or floors will be impacted
- Relocate small valuables or sensitive materials (paper files, instruments, etc.)
-

Prepare for Noise, Traffic, and Disruption

The work will bring activity to your home daily, often starting early. To avoid surprises:

- Arrange parking or access for the contractor and crew
- Make sure entry doors are unlocked or accessible during work hours
- Keep pets confined to a quiet, safe space—or plan for off-site care
- Plan your work-from-home or childcare schedules around expected noise

Protect the Rest of Your Home

Construction comes with noise, dust, and debris—but containment can minimize the mess. Protect your home by:

- Installing plastic sheeting or zip walls to isolate the work zone
- Sealing off nearby HVAC vents to prevent dust circulation
- Using floor protection in hallways, staircases, and entry points
- Covering or moving furniture in adjacent areas

GETTING YOUR HOME READY FOR CONSTRUCTION

Make Utilities Accessible and Plan for Contractor Needs

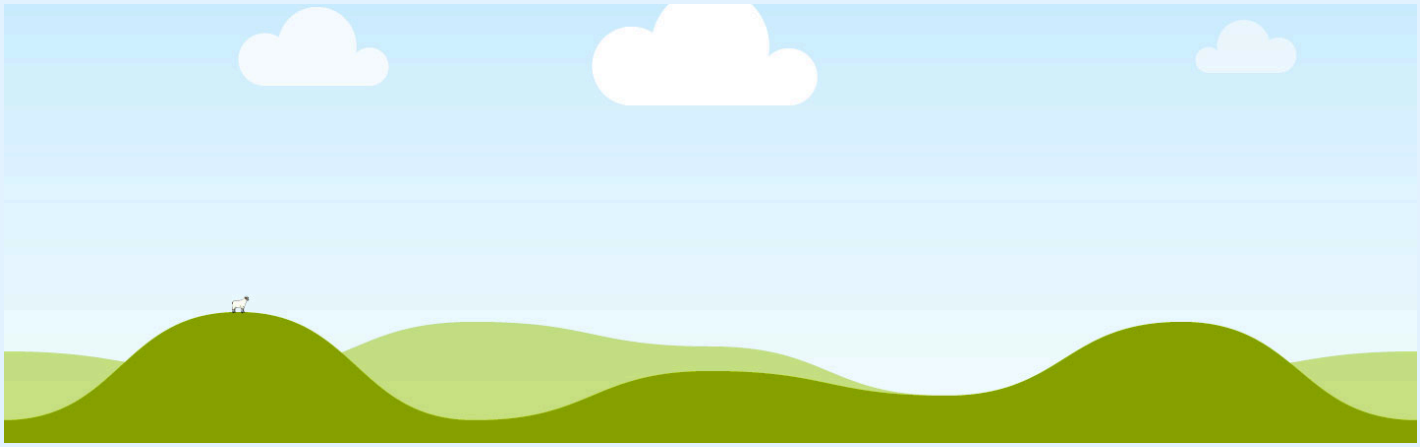
Contractors will need access to utilities and may need to temporarily shut them off during the job. Be sure to:

- Locate and test your water shutoff valves
- Ensure the electrical panel is clear and accessible
- If your renovation involves gas lines, make sure they can be safely disconnected
- Determine which bathroom contractors will use and prepare it for daily access (or discuss alternate arrangements)

Label and Store Items You're Reusing

If you plan to reuse appliances, lighting, hardware, or other items, make sure nothing gets removed by mistake. You can:

- Use painter's tape or sticky notes to label anything staying
- Store reusable items in a safe, dry space away from foot traffic
- Communicate clearly with your contractor about what's being salvaged



Designate a Delivery and Storage Area

Cabinets, countertops, and other materials need a clean, dry area for delivery and staging. Make space in:

- A garage or covered porch
- A dry basement or utility room
- A portable storage unit (if space allows)

Coordinate with your contractor to ensure delivery timing and access align with the schedule.

Establish a Communication Plan

Ongoing communication is key to a successful project. Set expectations early by:

- Identifying your main point of contact (contractor, designer, or project manager)
- Agreeing on how often you'll receive updates—daily briefings or weekly summaries
- Creating a shared folder (digital or physical) for change orders, receipts, and schedules

Mentally Prepare for the Process

Even with great planning, renovations can involve surprises. Delays, dust, or last-minute decisions are common—but being flexible and staying focused on the end goal will make all the difference.

You're one step closer to your dream kitchen. The time you spend preparing now will pay off with a smoother process and better results.

WHY CONSIDER CEDARS & BIRCH KITCHENS?

What truly sets Cedars and Birch apart is our holistic design approach. We don’t just sell cabinets—we design spaces that work for the way you live. We look at the full picture: layout, function, flow, and aesthetics. We consider how your kitchen or bath connects with the rest of your home, how you move through it, and how to maximize both beauty and efficiency. The result is a cohesive space that reflects your lifestyle and adds lasting value.

At Cedars and Birch Kitchens, we believe cabinetry should be chosen in your own space—which is why we offer in-home demonstrations. Prefer to come to us? We're happy to schedule a personalized showroom appointment in our home-based studio.

Location
*Home Showroom
30 Crest Circle West Yarmouth
02673

Showroom Hours
Monday-Friday by appointment
9am-5pm

Thank you for considering us!
Contact us at
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