

**KITCHEN REMODEL SURVIVAL GEMS-**  
**In no particular order, each one is a diamond!**

By Mandy Feldman

You dreamed, you prepared and you can't wait to enjoy your new kitchen! However, there are demolition, construction, and installation processes standing in your way. Here are some tips and reminders for getting ready and being prepared for the entire remodel process no matter how extensive your project will be. These are in no particular order...each one is valuable!

- **Patience is more than a virtue**, it is a necessity when remodeling your kitchen. Construction of any kind is not like baking a cake...you can't throw all ingredients in a bowl, mix, bake and presto! It takes coordination, timing, and a dash of patience. Ask your remodeling team for a tentative schedule. Know that every step has a plus or minus time frame. Find out what it is so that you aren't surprised.
- **Dust bunnies are not cute**, and neither is the dust created by a work site. So seal off all doorways and openings to the rest of the house using plastic sheets and tape. The remodeling company should be more than willing to help you do this (or do it for you!) to make the entire process easier to bear.
- **Kids and pets not welcome**. Why? Because any remodel project is a work site. Although it should be thoroughly cleaned after every work day, small items such as material particles can get left behind. Keep your small loved ones away from the work site until you are preparing meals for them in your new complete kitchen.
- **Fail to plan, then plan to fail**. Plan clear times and days that are acceptable for the remodeling team to work. Be sure to let all parties know and stick to times that work for you. If you have less hours and days that work for you, be prepared to have an overall longer remodel schedule.
- **Communication is the key!** Ask the foreman of the project for a phone number or email address to contact them in the likely event that you have a few questions along the way. You should also expect regular calls from the foreman keeping you informed of the project's progress.
- **Time is money**. While everyone involved wants you to have the kitchen of your dreams, remember that changes that you make on the fly after you have signed off on (and probably put a deposit down on) your new kitchen slow the process. Change orders will not only cost you time, but also money. Make sure that you have both available if you want to alter the original plans. Also, be sure to address any decisions or information that is requested by your remodeler ASAP. A delay in a decision while during remodel process could delay the process and your quick return to a working kitchen.
- **Mi casa is not necessarily your house**. Be clear on areas that are OFF LIMITS to all workers. If you do not have a convenient lavatory, either recommend one that is just around the corner or rent a port-o-potty.

- **Going down the drain.** If you are using a bathroom to wash dishes, don't use it to wash yourself too. Try to find a bathroom that is dedicated to dishes while you are in a kitchen remodel. A proactive remodel company will set up a temporary sink for you...otherwise, don't be afraid to ask for one!
- **Have your people call my people.** If you are in a dual decision making household, make the "more available" person the primary decision maker designated to make decisions on the fly. The primary decision maker should be available by phone, cell phone or in person at all times. Pre-paid cell phones and pagers are easy to purchase and use...this small investment could help save time and money in the long run.
- **Smile at everyone on the job.** Everyone's goal is to get your new kitchen installed and working. If your remodel team knows that you are thinking about the end product positively, so will they. You will experience a better and a faster result with kindness and praise.

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