

# REMODELING

within your budget



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**R**emodeling your home is not only a big financial investment, but can often times be stressful not only in the design and planning stages, but also throughout the renovation process itself. One way to ease the stress is to have a budget in mind before you start the process. Sometimes your budget can simply be what you can afford, but often times a remodeling project is and can be financed through the equity that you already have in your home.

Now you might ask, how much should I budget for my kitchen or bathroom project? The answer isn't always so simple. For people who have no experience in remodeling their home, they often times have little knowledge of renovation

costs. One simple rule is to use the value of your home and spend a percentage of that value on your project. A kitchen usually calls for somewhere between 10-25% of your home's total value, while bathrooms vary greatly depending on the size. A standard hallway bathroom with a tub/shower surround, commode and vanity should cost around \$10-15K to fully remodel, while a master bathroom can often times be much more depending on the size and complexity.

A great way to plan a budget for your renovation is to talk to friends or family members who have similar size homes and have recently remodeled. You can get some good ideas on what to do, as well as get an idea of the cost without being too intrusive.

One of the most important aspects of remodeling is finding a contractor to work with that can work within, and also maximize, your budget. Knowing you are working with someone who understands your budget, as well as your goals and desires, will allow you to focus more on the design and product selections, and less on your stress level.

## Kitchens

Remodeling your kitchen can mean anything from some new appliances and a new countertop, to a full scale renovation where you remove walls

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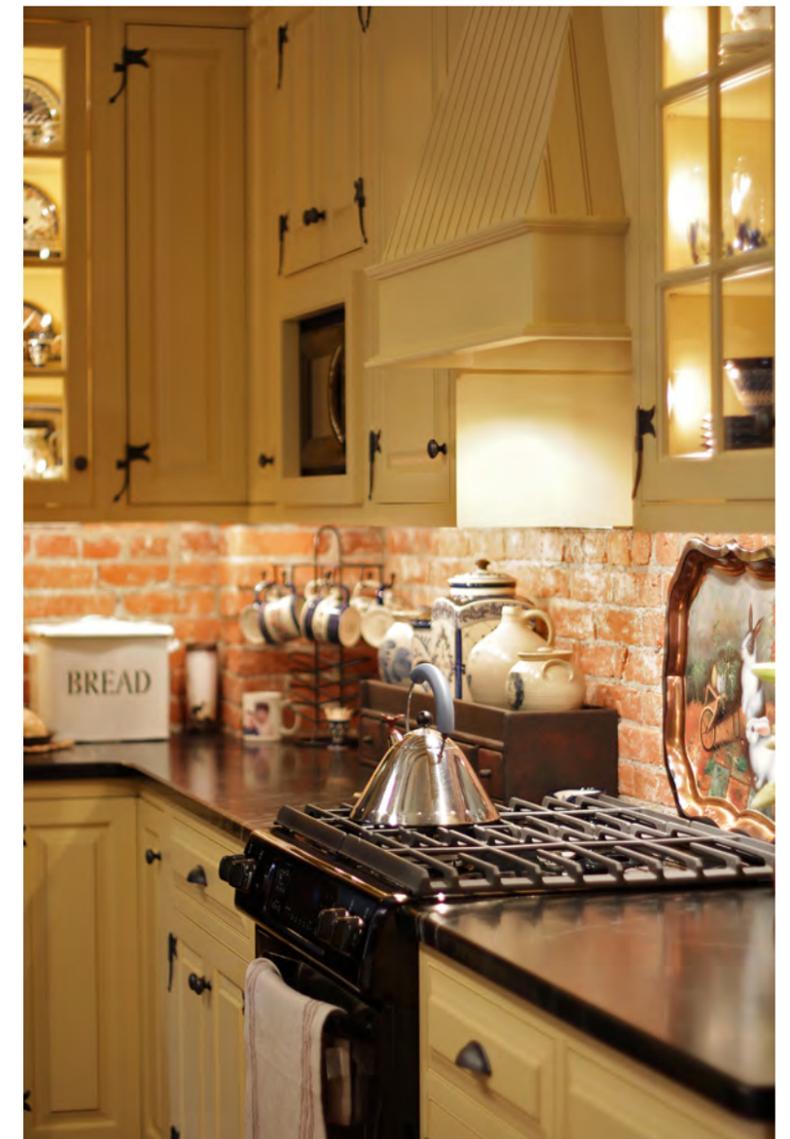
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Please feel free to stop and see our recently remodeled showroom featuring a working kitchen, multiple kitchen, bath and laundry displays, large selection of appliances and Remodeling Design Center. Hours Monday-Friday 9am-8pm, Saturday 9am-4pm.





impact on your kitchen, without addressing the cabinets or layout. If a full scale remodel is what you need, or fits your budget, you might want to consider some design changes to the layout in addition to all of the material changes. Another advantage to a full scale remodel is that you often times get “more bang for your buck” by doing everything at one time. Spacing out multiple smaller projects to renovate your kitchen often leads to a higher total cost, less cohesion, and a longer headache.

Whatever your budget or your needs might be, remember that good quality products and craftsmanship are two critical aspects to the project

that will ensure that you can enjoy your kitchen for many years to come.

## Bathrooms

The need to update or renovate your bathroom can be brought about by many different reasons. Your bathroom might be functional, but it might be stuck in the 1960s. Maybe your bathtub has a slow leak that has been repaired, and then leaked again one too many times. Whatever the case is, you want to be smart with your money, and maximize your budget.

In the case of an outdated bathroom, you will want to consider a full-scale remodel. By updating all aspects of your bathroom, you will ensure that everything works together, and you can create an overall theme or style to your bathroom. You might want to consider whether you can change from a bathtub to a shower, maybe add an additional vanity bowl, or simply add some storage in the form of a linen cabinet. When working with a limited budget, you might want to consider a new acrylic tub or shower surround to replace that old and outdated harvest gold fiberglass unit. In most cases, it is actually less expensive to fully replace your tub or shower surround than it is to simply “cover it up”. Another popular trend is to install a kitchen counter height vanity cabinet to replace your old, and lower height vanity.

Lastly, don't discount the importance of bathroom safety products when renovating. The addition of grab bars in the tub or shower or at the commode can make your bathroom a safer environment that can actually extend the amount of time that it's safe to continue to live in your home.

Understanding material choices is one of the best ways to maximize your overall budget in your bathroom.



and maybe even expand into an adjacent room. If you are working with a limited budget, you might want to consider replacing your countertops, adding a tile backsplash and changing the hardware on your cabinets. Those three changes can often times make a profound



A budget of \$10,000, for instance, might get you a new tub and shower surround with tile walls and a new vanity and quartz countertop. That same budget with different material choices (acrylic tub or shower surround, vanity with cultured marble countertop) will allow you to also replace your outdated floor, commode and accessories.

Working with a remodeling project specialist will ensure that you maximize your budget and end up with a result that not only fits your design style, but also gives you the functionality that you need.

Should you have any questions or would like to explore some ideas, please call us or, better yet, visit us in our new showroom.

R&A

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