

MID-CAPE HOME CENTERS

How much will my dream kitchen cost?

By Lynn Mason-Small

You've bought your dream home and now are ready for your dream kitchen. But how much is it going to cost? This is a difficult question to answer because there are so many variables to consider, but it is possible to estimate and control your spending range. A rule of thumb is to not let your kitchen remodeling budget exceed 10 percent to 15 percent of your home's fair market value.

Rather than look at one big number, try to focus on estimating smaller chunks of the project – for example, approximate amounts for appliances, countertops, labor, etc.

To establish a budget, first consider the extent of the project. Some factors to consider are:

- How long do you plan to stay in your home?
- What is the value of your home?
- Is it necessary to make architectural changes?
- Do you need to make electrical and plumbing changes?

Cabinetry: There are wide selections of door styles, finishes, storage options and decorative enhancements to personalize your space to reflect your own style and function for the way your family lives. There are many variables to consider: wood species; finish; storage solutions; moldings.

Countertops: There are many options and price ranges – the most popular are: granite (starting at \$60/sq. ft.); solid surface (Corian, starting at \$60/sq. ft.); and engineered stone (Silestone, Zodiaq; starting at \$60/sq. ft.).

Other options include ceramic tile (\$45-70/sq. ft.); wood butcher block (starting at \$70/sq. ft.) and concrete (starting at \$80/sq. ft.)

When talking to your designer, be sure to discuss the advantages and disadvantages of each countertop material.

Work with the pros: When it comes to the heavy lifting, particularly electrical and plumbing, you should leave that to the pros. Your kitchen designer can help with referrals to qualified experts. Professionals are also likely to have helpful suggestions based on previous experiences and can give you a better sense of cost, while watching out for potential obstacles. This kind of foresight will help your project stay on time and your budget stay on track.

Keeping track: Keep a list of all purchases. Include the vendor's name, telephone number and delivery date. This will give you an easy reference all in one place.

Mid-Cape Home Centers has the largest team of kitchen designers on Cape Cod with design centers located at their Orleans and South Dennis Mid-Cape Home Centers and Complete Home Concepts designer showrooms in Hyannis and Plymouth. Schedule an appointment online at midcape.net or call (800) 295-9220.