8-Week Kitchen Renovation Guide

Transform your cramped layout into a bright, custom space.

Plan your upgrades and sequence the entire project with confidence. This exact timeline and checklist will help you navigate foundational clearances and finishing details.



Key Clearances & Dimensions

2-3 in
Mitered drop edge visual thickness

Min 10 in
Deep drawer depth for stock pots

+6 in
Range hood width beyond your cooktop

30-36 in
Pendant height; check dining room sightlines

12 in
Knee clearance beneath standard island overhang

24 & 18 in
Min sink side clearances for dishes

0.5 in
Plywood cabinet box thickness for hinges

24 hr
Countertop cure time before plumbing trim-out

Optical illusion for cramped floors

Always run engineered hardwood planks parallel to the longest wall. This draws the eye forward, making a cramped footprint feel significantly longer and more expansive.

8-Week Renovation Sequence

1. **Weeks 1 & 2** Start the clock with full demolition and rough-in plumbing once your site is completely ready.
2. **Cabinet Installation** Install solid plywood cabinet boxes and run ceiling-height uppers all the way to the drywall.
3. **Countertop Details** Add a mitered drop edge to the island to create massive visual weight without overloading cabinetry.
4. **Plumbing Trim-Out** Connect your shiny new faucet and garbage disposal to the rough pipes after countertops fully cure.

Clearances & Appliance Integration

Find your row: **Your kitchen setup**

Your kitchen setup	Your pick	Why
Single-cook kitchen layout	42-inch aisle width	Allows appliance doors to open fully.
Two simultaneous cooks	48-inch aisle width	Prevents traffic jams during meal prep.
36-inch high standard island	24-inch counter stools	Maintains comfortable knee clearance beneath overhang.
Large refrigerator	Panel-ready custom door	Creates a continuous, seamless pantry wall.
Standard dishwasher	Matching cabinet front	Hides utility zones completely from view.
Microwave oven	Under-counter drawer	Keeps your countertops completely clear.

Check Before Installing

- ○ Measure ceiling height in multiple spots for seamless ceiling-height uppers.
- ○ Check manufacturer hardware ratings for deep drawer base heavy-duty glides.
- ○ Mark recessed lighting and vent placements before installing upper cabinets.
- ○ Add filler strips against side walls so doors open past 90 degrees.
- ○ Plan horizontal outlet placement close to the counter to protect tile work.

Pre-Renovation Site Prep

- ☐ Verify your local municipality has approved the plans.
- ☐ Have cabinets, windows, and appliances sitting in your garage.
- ☐ Move your microwave and coffee maker to the dining room.
- ☐ Tape down heavy-duty builder's paper over adjacent flooring.
- ☐ Group all tall vertical pantry elements on a single wall.
- ☐ Match your faucet finish to your cabinet pulls for cohesion.

Project Notes & Dimensions

Enjoy cooking in your beautiful, perfectly sequenced new custom kitchen!