

Kitchen Remodeling: Material Selections Guide

Understanding the Process

KITCHENS & BATHS UNLIMITED

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KITCHEN REMODELING: MATERIAL SELECTIONS

After finalizing your kitchen design, door style and finish selections, the heavy lifting is out of the way, but there are still items that need to be selected and can be easily overlooked or forgotten about in the midst of all this excitement.

Here is a check list to help guide you through the material selection process in a sequential fashion. Depending upon your situation and if you plan on keeping any existing items in your kitchen the sequence identified below may need to be adjusted accordingly.

- **CABINETS:** Design, style and finish
- **APPLIANCES:** They need to be selected before the cabinetry order can be placed. With “appliances” we also include sink(s), faucet(s), soap dispenser(s) and garbage disposal(s). Other items that should be selected with appliances are hot water dispensers, water filtration systems, air switches for garbage disposal etc. If you are doing any wood paneled appliances, remember to order handles for these appliances as this often gets overlooked.
- **FLOORING:** If a new wood flooring is being installed this will go wall to wall and will need to be installed after the kitchen is demolished, but before the new cabinets are installed. If a new tile flooring is being selected, this can be installed before or after the new cabinets are in place. Selecting a flooring material can be done in conjunction with cabinet and appliance selection or can be viewed as secondary.
- **Countertops:** Most counter top materials can only be held for 2-4 weeks max. Therefore we suggest starting to look for your granite or material of choice approximately 6 weeks after the cabinet order has been placed to start getting some ideas of what you like. Granite pricing varies drastically from one color to the next; therefore, be sure to take this time to determine what you like and what it costs by referring to your kitchen designer.

GRANITE PLACES WE RECOMMEND IN THE CHICAGOLAND AREA

1. T&M – Terrazzo & Marble in Wheeling (847) 353-8000
2. MGSI – Marble & Granite Supply of Illinois (847) 972-1161
3. MSI – MS International in Elk Grove Village (847) 725-6500
4. Dal Tile Natural Stone in Elk Grove Village (847) 593-9008
5. Damar in Northbrook (847) 272-6666

- **BACKSPLASH:** After your countertops have been determined, you can select your backsplash material. This can be done approximately 6-8 weeks after the cabinet order has been placed. Some homeowners like to wait until much later in the process until the counter tops are actually installed so they can bring backsplash samples into their new space for viewing before deciding. This route can slow up the remodeling process quite a bit, but it doesn't hurt to be safer than sorry.

TILE STORES WE RECOMMEND IN THE CHICAGOLAND AREA

1. Etched in Stone in Glenview (847) 486-4100
2. Virginia Tile in Wood Dale (630) 595-0515
3. Materials Marketing in Chicago (312) 226-0222
4. The Tile Shop in Deerfield (847) 513-9620

- **ACCESSORIES:** Accessories include lights, pendants, handles or knobs (If you are doing wood paneled appliances don't forget about handles for these appliances), glass inserts for cabinet doors, window treatments etc. The most important of all accessories are your light fixtures as this will affect the rate at which your rough electrical work gets done once your project starts. It's not worth delaying your project because lighting selections were forgotten about. We know it is easy to procrastinate with the "little stuff", but ideally this could be determined early on in the process.

Depending on how you like to operate, you may take the following literally, read between the lines or it's possible you won't read this at all. Here is a timeline to help you with all necessary material selections.

CABINETS	WEEK 1
APPLIANCES	WEEK 2
FLOORING	WEEK 3
LIGHTING	WEEK 4
HANDLES OR KNOBS	WEEK 5
GRANITE	WEEK 6
BACKSPLASH	WEEK 7
REMAINING ACCESSORIES	WEEK 8

The time line above is merely suggested as a helpful guide. If your approach is to make all of your material decisions at once, that's wonderful! If time is a factor or doing things all at once seems a bit overwhelming then maybe consider following the timeline above to help spread things out to be more manageable.

Kitchen remodeling projects typically start 2-3 months after contract signing. So ultimately homeowners have quite a bit of time to get all of their materials selected. As you may know, different personality types approach this material selection process from several different angles. Some wait until the last minute or until demolition has started to run out and pick up those last minute materials, just like picking through the left over Valentine's Day cards at 5:00 pm on February 14th. Others have been sitting with their items in their house for the last month and are ready to get started. Regardless of where you fall in the spectrum, the bottom line is not all materials are in stock. Some have hefty lead times associated with them. Just know if you wait until the last minute to get all of your ducks in a row, then your project duration will most likely be longer than necessary.

We hope you have found this information helpful. If you haven't started the process of remodeling your kitchen and would like more information on how to get started contact Kitchens & Baths Unlimited at 847-729-1212 or visit us at 1232 Waukegan Rd, Glenview, IL 60025.

ABOUT US

[Kitchens & Baths Unlimited](http://www.kitchensbathsunlimited.com) is a full service kitchen and bath remodeling firm of 30 years, doing business predominantly in the North Shore and Chicagoland areas.

We hope that you found this information helpful. If you would like to get started designing the bathroom of your dreams click the button below and one of our talented designers will help you get started.