



# AJ'S KITCHENS

DESIGN+BUILD+REMODEL



## The Ultimate Kitchen Planning Guide

[AJSKITCHENS.CO.NZ](https://ajskitchens.co.nz)

# Decisions

When planning a kitchen upgrade, there are a few key questions to consider. Your answers will help determine whether a full kitchen remodel or a kitchen refresh is the best choice for you.

A full kitchen remodel is a larger project that requires a bigger investment, but it allows for complete customisation and a dramatic transformation. On the other hand, a kitchen refresh can be a more budget-friendly option with less building work, as it focuses on cosmetic changes like replacing cabinet doors, new countertops, lighting, and hardware. While a refresh can give your space a fresh new look, it may not achieve the same level of transformation as a full remodel. Both options have their benefits—it all comes down to your budget and how much time you're willing to invest.

## Things to consider first

1

Are you planning to upgrade your kitchen appliances or keep the ones you have? This is an important decision to make early in the design process, as your appliance choices will influence the overall layout and design of your kitchen. Depending on the brand and features you choose, appliances can also take up a significant portion of your budget, so it's essential to factor them in from the start.

2

Are you keeping your existing cabinets or opting for brand-new ones? If your cabinets are in good condition, replacing the doors can give them a fresh, updated look while keeping costs down. Since cabinetry is one of the biggest expenses in a kitchen remodel, this can be a budget-friendly alternative. However, if you're investing in new cabinets, you'll have a wider range of styles, materials, and customisation options to choose from.

3

Are you sticking with your current kitchen layout or planning a new one? Keeping the existing layout can help reduce costs since there's no need to move plumbing or electrical work. In this case, a kitchen refresh might be all you need. However, if you're looking to reconfigure the space for better functionality, a full remodel will be the way to go.

# Planning

Before diving into your kitchen remodel, start by identifying your needs, decluttering, and gathering inspiration.

## **Step 1: Define Your Kitchen Needs**

Think about how you use your kitchen daily and what improvements would make the space work better for you

- Does your current layout meet your needs?
- Do you have enough storage, or do you need to create more space?
- Make a list of your kitchen must-haves and your wish list—what's essential, and what would be nice to have
- Which areas of your kitchen do you use the most?
- Is your lighting sufficient for cooking, dining, and ambiance?
- How many people will be using this kitchen regularly?

## **Step 2: Gather Inspiration**

Look for kitchen designs that inspire you. Instagram and Pinterest are great places to start!

- Create a Pinterest board and save kitchen styles you love.
- Look for common themes—do you gravitate toward modern, classic, or other types of design?
- Pay attention to details like color schemes, hardware finishes, and storage features.
- Explore smart storage solutions that enhance both beauty and functionality in your kitchen.

## **Step 3: Declutter & Organize**

Before planning new storage, take stock of what you already have.

- Go through every cabinet and drawer—decide what to keep and what to let go of.
- Only plan storage for items you actually use and need.
- Organise items into categories to create kitchen zones—for example, a cooking zone near the stove or a coffee station in one corner.

Taking these steps will set the foundation for a well-planned, functional, and stylish kitchen remodel!

# Needs

There's a lot to think about when determining what your kitchen needs.  
Browse the list below and check off the essentials for your space.

## Fixtures|Finishes

- Appliances
- Benchtops
- Kitchen sink
- Tapware
- Light fixtures
- Backsplash
- Decorative hardware
- Lighting
- Floating Shelves

## Contractors|Trades

- Kitchen Designer/Installer
- Builder
- Electrician
- Plumber
- Flooring Installer
- Plasterer
- Painter

# The Process

When you're ready to start your kitchen renovation, contact us at  
AJ's Kitchens - [www.ajskitchens.co.nz](http://www.ajskitchens.co.nz)

## Site Visit

We will visit your space to gain a clear understanding of your vision, style, and functional needs. This allows us to assess the layout, lighting, and existing features to ensure every detail is thoughtfully considered in your kitchen design

01.



02.

## Conceptualisation

Building on the insights we've gathered, we will transform our collaborative ideas into a detailed kitchen plan that incorporates everything you envision, along with our expert recommendations. Additionally, we'll invite you to our show kitchen, where you can explore color palettes and fittings to refine your selections.

03.

## Free Quote

Taking your feedback, colour selections, and our collaborative design into account, we will refine the plans to ensure every detail aligns with your vision. Once finalised, we will provide you with a comprehensive quote for your review, outlining all aspects of your new kitchen design.

04.

## Next Steps

Once you've approved the quote, a 50% deposit will be required to secure your project. We will then coordinate a schedule that works for both you and our team, ensuring a seamless and efficient installation process. Our goal is to minimize disruption while bringing your dream kitchen to life.