

## Thinking about a kitchen remodel?

Here is advice from top interior decorators we have put together for you to consider:

**Kitchen Cabinetry.** We highly recommend you invest your dollars in the best cabinetry you can afford, and worry about things like appliances later. In other words, don't sacrifice the quality of your cabinets for new appliances if budget is an issue. Instead, delay purchasing your dream appliances. Why? Long after you've replaced your refrigerator and dishwasher, your cabinets will be standing, and they are the foundation for a beautiful kitchen. The advantage of using true custom cabinets vs. typical stock cabinets that can be



configured in different combinations is twofold. First, custom cabinets can be fitted perfectly to your kitchen, filling the space precisely and making the best use of corners, spaces between windows and any height or length of wall. Second, custom cabinets can achieve looks that stock cabinets can't, especially when integrated with other features such as a banquette seat or kitchen island. This is especially important when going for a sought-after transitional style, where cabinets are desired to be seamless but not uniform. Plus, although white tends to be the most in-demand shade, custom cabinets can be any hue you choose.

**Drawers instead of doors.** Given the choice, always choose drawers over doors on base cabinets. It's so much easier to organize and find things when you can pull out a drawer instead of having to squat down to dig around deep inside the cabinet. **Tip:** Extra-deep drawers are great for storing dishes, pots and pans. Also try to fit as many wide (36-inch) cabinets in as you can, because these can hold all manner of items yet still be within easy reach.



**Quartz counters.** Quartz is a designer's dream to work with for many reasons. It's made using actual stone, so it echoes the natural appeal of materials such as granite or marble. But it is also processed and manufactured in ways that make it strong, nonporous and color-customizable to create many different looks with good color predictability (as opposed to a stone slab, which can contain more unexpected surprises compared with the sample). As far as price, it is a little more expensive than



stone, granite or total synthetics, although the price will vary depending on composition and manufacturer. But for low maintenance and durability, quartz is the new must-have in your dream home.

**Hands-free faucet.** This is a wish-list item everyone should have. The faucet which you can turn on and off by touching anywhere on the faucet. There are other brands which you turn on and off with the wave of a hand in front of a sensor embedded in the neck of the faucet. It's responsive, doesn't randomly turn off or on, and doesn't make a wet mess on the sink deck.

**Single-bowl granite composite sink in a dark color.** Darker in color, these lower-maintenance gray or black granite composite sinks are durable and require minimal work to keep them looking clean. They come in many shapes and sizes but we are fans of the large single-bowl sink, as it can easily fit larger pots and pans for soaking. If you get this as an undermount you will have even easier cleanup.

