

Hot Topic 3: Don't Read This Unless You Want A Great Kitchen Project!

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The DIY FYI

March 8, 2010

Kitchen remodeling, for most of us, may seem to be an insurmountable and complex project to take on. Whether you desire to do it yourself, hire a general contractor, or engage a company that sells kitchen cabinets (such as a big box home improvement store or a specialty retailer), this series of articles is for you. To simplify the subject and give you, the reader, the confidence to tackle a kitchen project, I'm going to break a typical project down to its parts, the same way that I do for clients as "The Do It Yourself Coach". This basic information will give you enough information to research each aspect further and



be well informed. Whether you decide to tackle the project as a DIYer with or without a Coach, hire a general contractor, or deal with a retail cabinet company, my objective will be for you to become well informed. This way you'll be in the position to make the best decisions for yourself when planning your kitchen, rather than susceptible to an unscrupulous sales person's pitch. The kitchen, whether being for a new home or a remodeling project, is one of the most expensive and important areas of a home to design and outfit. Contained in the area are items that include: cabinets, counter surfaces, appliances, ventilation, flooring, lighting, wall coverings (tile backsplash, wainscot, wallpaper, etc.), trim, and furniture. In addition, windows, skylights, and exterior doors are usually a consideration when integrated with the relationship that the room will have to the outside. There are two perspectives that need to be explored before we begin. If you have explored our website and our blog you know that one of the Do It Yourself Coach's most important objectives is to give clients the ability to add more



value to their home than they spend. (Please go to thediycousa.com and explore "9 Home Improvement Facts That Can Save You A Bundle" and the "Links and Tools" to the left of the list should also be helpful.) However, kitchens, which now have become an important center of family activity as well as for entertaining, serve a conglomerate of purposes. Some of these purposes are pretty much straight forward; other's may not be easily recognized. Therefore, our clients are taught to look at their objective in achieving what is for them, the perfect kitchen. On one side of the spectrum are families that see themselves living in the home for many years. Cooking is a passion. The kitchen is looked upon as a place for the serious undertaking to develop gastronomic events that enhance family life and relationships with friends. The kitchen must be a luxury work shop with the best equipment to provide a creative and enjoyable environment. For some, it is the temple of culinary extravaganza. Interaction with family and guests are often an imperative. The only objective for these people is to get the most for their money, but a return on investment is secondary (if they ever sell their home) compared to the enjoyable benefits they will receive from the completion and use of the project. The other side of the spectrum is the fixer upper home that was recently purchased by a young couple. Remodeling this kitchen is a necessity, because it's falling apart, out of date, and almost nothing works very well. They don't plan to live in this, their first house, for more than five years. At that time, they plan to sell this house that they bought from a bankruptcy, get a return on their investment, and move up to something more to their liking. The kitchen project

for them is to serve their present needs while living here and add marketability when they sell.

As you can see, these are two very opposite points of views with very different goals. Your kitchen's objective can be one of these, but for most, I've found them somewhere in between. Elements that are very often taken into consideration are when multigenerational families live in the residence together or it's a shared family getaway or rental unit. For most of us, not like my first example, the total cost is one of the prime considerations. To help you begin to consider your determinations, go to our website and read those articles under "Project Planning and Objectives".

I am not a professional writer, so to help me explain things to you about kitchen remodeling I will coach you as if you were one of my clients who is making up their mind about what parts of the project they want to take on themselves or have others do. Here's my only commercial. Since I started this business concept, the coach has worked with our clients doing the parts of remodeling projects that they didn't have the skills, knowledge, or tools for. The idea is simple: "You can do it for yourself, but you don't have to do it by yourself" and we will teach you the things that you want to do. Hopefully, with an effort on both our parts, you will gain the knowledge you need. My next article in this series will be subtitled: "Part-I Understanding the Construction and Types of Kitchen Cabinets". It will contain information about materials used, the two methods of construction, and the difference between Ready To Assemble (RTA), Stock, semi-custom, and custom kitchen cabinets.

