

How to calculate your Custom Kitchen Material Budget in 5 minutes

No two kitchens are the same.

Talk about creating a challenge for you to get any contracting estimates that take into consideration the whole picture as you embark on your kitchen remodel project.

Most contractors use a formula to provide you with your kitchen remodeling estimate which includes;

- 1) the labor cost based on work you describe
- 2) a material budget for your selections
- 3) their general overhead and profit.

Labor cost is easy enough to estimate. Give them a list of the items you want replaced and any additional work you want to have done and they can pretty quickly pull together an estimate you can understand. The material budget is a completely different story, and it can be all over the map from one contract to another.

As a default they may plug a number into the estimate that's based on your overall budget and the simple equation of (Your budget - their cost = material budget). Others send you off to meet with a dozen vendors, you make a bunch of decisions then they plug the material budget into the labor cost. That's a lot of work on your part before you even know if you can afford the remodel project.

What happens when the number comes in too high? You're left with confusion on figuring out where to cut costs, frustrated from the time you already spent running around and back to the beginning.


That's why I created a quick 5 minute calculator that will identify your budget for cabinets, appliances, countertops and all the miscellaneous fixtures that make up a beautiful new Custom kitchen.

I didn't design this worksheet to tell you what it *will* cost, it's a budget, meant to show you where your dollars will need to go to get the project you're dreaming about. The first time you complete the calculator you are probably going to be shocked. But that's a good thing, you will quickly see that your product selections have a huge impact on cost.

This is how you can most effectively manage your dollars.

That's why I think the smartest decision any homeowner can make when embarking on a kitchen remodel is to work with a Kitchen designer and plan out the materials.

And that's why we start every project we do with the design and planning process.



We;
Create a Concept based on your wants and needs
Create a Budget
Plan out the Product selections
Reconcile the Budget against the decisions
Reconcile the Labor Budget

It's not until we've finished the design and planning that we create a Construction Contract.

With this calculator you will be equipped with a Product Budget. Need to cut costs? Look at cutting from Cabinets, Appliances, or Countertops. You'll be armed with the knowledge of how to break out the most common material costs and discuss the impact they are having on the overall cost of your project.

Keep in mind, this calculator is from the point of view of a Custom kitchen, because, nobody ever comes to us looking to recreate or lower the quality when remodeling in their home. Can you purchase cabinets for less, of course, but you will have to give up some features or quality.

Download our Calculator and immediately be prepared to have better discussions with the Designers, Contractors and Vendors you work with on your Kitchen remodel project.

Cynthia, Lauren and John Murphy (The Team)