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Scott
McGillivray

SPRING RENOVATIONS START NOW!

A GUIDE TO PLANNING FOR YOUR NEW KITCHEN

BY MELISSA DAVIS | It's hard to think about planning a spring renovation when we're ankle deep in snow. I completely relate to the desire for a few chilly months of hibernation and procrastination, but this is prime planning time!

The average kitchen renovation should be planned 3 to 6 months in advance. That means your spring start date should have you doing the preliminary legwork now. Here's the good news, we're also in prime time for design shows and home shows, ripe with the latest products and eager suppliers offering book early deals.

Before you begin, let me offer a few of the latest product innovations in kitchen design that us pros are using on our clients' homes right now. The kitchen sink isn't just the same old stainless it once ways!

SINKS: The leader in sink technology has been and continues to be **Blanco**. They were first to market with their Silgranit product which today is a heatproof, stain-proof, break-proof, scratch-proof sink offered in 7 colours all of which are on trend from white to anthracite with shades between, to seamlessly blend with any counter colour. Stainless is nice, but this is miles ahead.

COUNTERS: Composite counters remain the top pick for designers because of their stain resistance and colour range from fresh pure white to concrete and jet black.

Caesar Stone continues to offer new colours each season with patterns like Calacatta Nuvo, emulating a beautiful subtle marble.

CABINETS: As we've all become more aware of the dangers lurking in everything from our cleaning supplies to the paint on our walls,



most manufacturers have responded by offerings a low VOC cabinet. **AYA Kitchens** carries a collection with beautiful styles from ultra contemporary to traditional.

APPLIANCES: We're seeing a movement away from the bright stainless, instead opting for integrated and matched appliances. Samsung launched their new series with a deep black stainless finish. The great pop of metal with a more sophisticated tone.

KITCHEN REMODEL CHECKLIST

3 TO 6 MONTHS BEFORE:

- Start getting inspired — pull images and create boards on *Pinterest*.
- Keep versus ditch — determine what works and doesn't in your existing kitchen
- Make a budget — kitchen renovations can be as simple as a facelift, but even just changing appliances requires an electrician and plumber. Plan every foreseeable cost in advance to avoid overspending.
- Hire the team — select a designer, cabinet company and contractor that will work together as a cohesive team and understand your style, budget limitations.

3 TO 6 WEEKS BEFORE:

- Make decisions — select the style, palette, appliances and fixtures in advance to leave time for substitutions if needed. Budget and availability often mean changes are needed.
- Call it done — settle on a layout, down to the smallest details like drawer inserts, lighting.

DAYS BEFORE:

- Pack it up — pack up your existing kitchen items and store. Don't leave anything behind that might slow down the crew. Time is money!
- Stick to the plan — there will be a lot of questions. No matter how much pre-planning was done, things come up. If you've properly planned in advance, you will feel confident in the choices and stick to the original plan. Any changes ahead will cost time and money.

LIGHTING: One of the most important elements for both function and completing the overall look, innovative lighting has made it all the way to the mass-market kitchen offerings. **IKEA's** new line of kitchens offers in-drawer, in-cabinet and feature lighting with accessories that connect to the same power supply for charging USB devices.



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