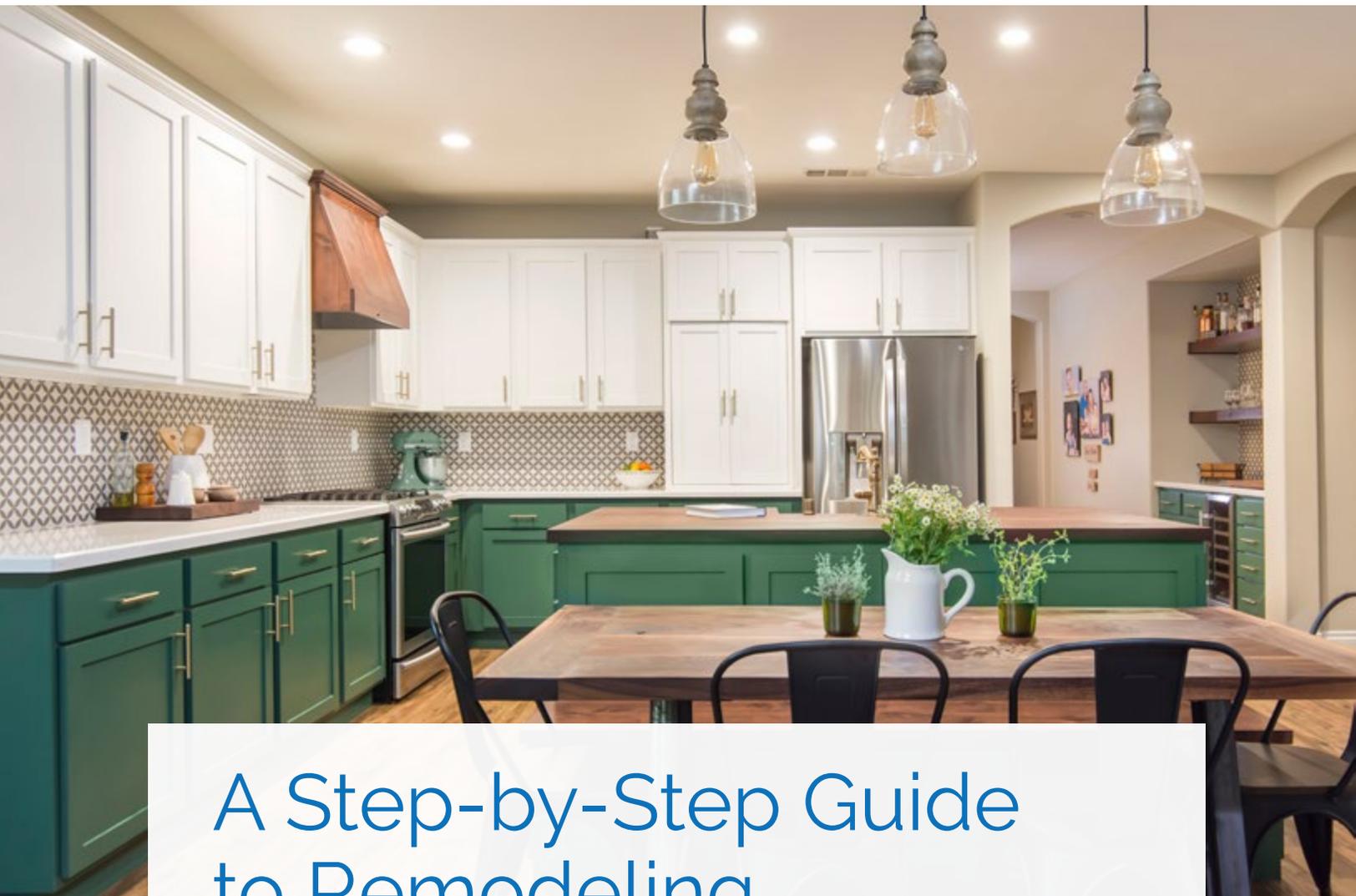




Kitchen Design Starter Kit:



A Step-by-Step Guide
to Remodeling

the Heart of Your Home

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Ready to remodel? You're in the right place.

Kitchen renovations require a lot of planning and research. After all, as the heart of the home, kitchens are personal—what works for one homeowner might not work for another. Reading this guide is a smart step in identifying and outlining the elements that will turn your kitchen dreams into reality. After completing, you'll have a better idea of how your finished kitchen should look and function and be ready to select the perfect remodeling professional to make it all possible.

Let's get started!

Evaluate your current space



First, take a moment to consider your current kitchen. Why have you decided to remodel? What definitely needs to change, and what would you like to remain the same? Consider each element in the table below and think of how the space is—or isn't—working for you.

	Area	Form & Function Challenges
1	Accessibility	
2	Appearance	
3	Appliances	
4	Backsplash	
5	Cabinets	
6	Countertops	
7	Dining area	
8	Electric outlets	
9	Flooring	
10	Food prep areas	
11	Layout	
12	Lighting	
13	Proximity to other rooms	
14	Sink(s)	
15	Storage space	
16	Traffic flow	
17	Trash receptacles	
18	Windows	

Style is fluid

Don't worry if you can't choose just one style. You're probably drawn to one over the others but remember that mixing and matching is absolutely encouraged! Your remodeler's designer can help you combine styles in unexpected ways, but it's always good to start with those that most appeal to you.

Identify your style

Are you into coastal cool or classic traditional? It's often difficult to articulate, but knowing your main design style is key to creating a kitchen you'll love. Take a look at the photos below, each representing a popular design style. Jot a few thoughts on what you like or dislike about the kitchen, and why. Love the color palette? Hate that kind of countertop? What about the cabinet finish, or the hardware? You'll soon see a definite winner emerge. Need more inspiration? Design sites like Houzz are great places to view kitchen remodeling projects and check out styles, or even save your favorites to show your remodeler.

Contemporary/Modern



Traditional



Transitional



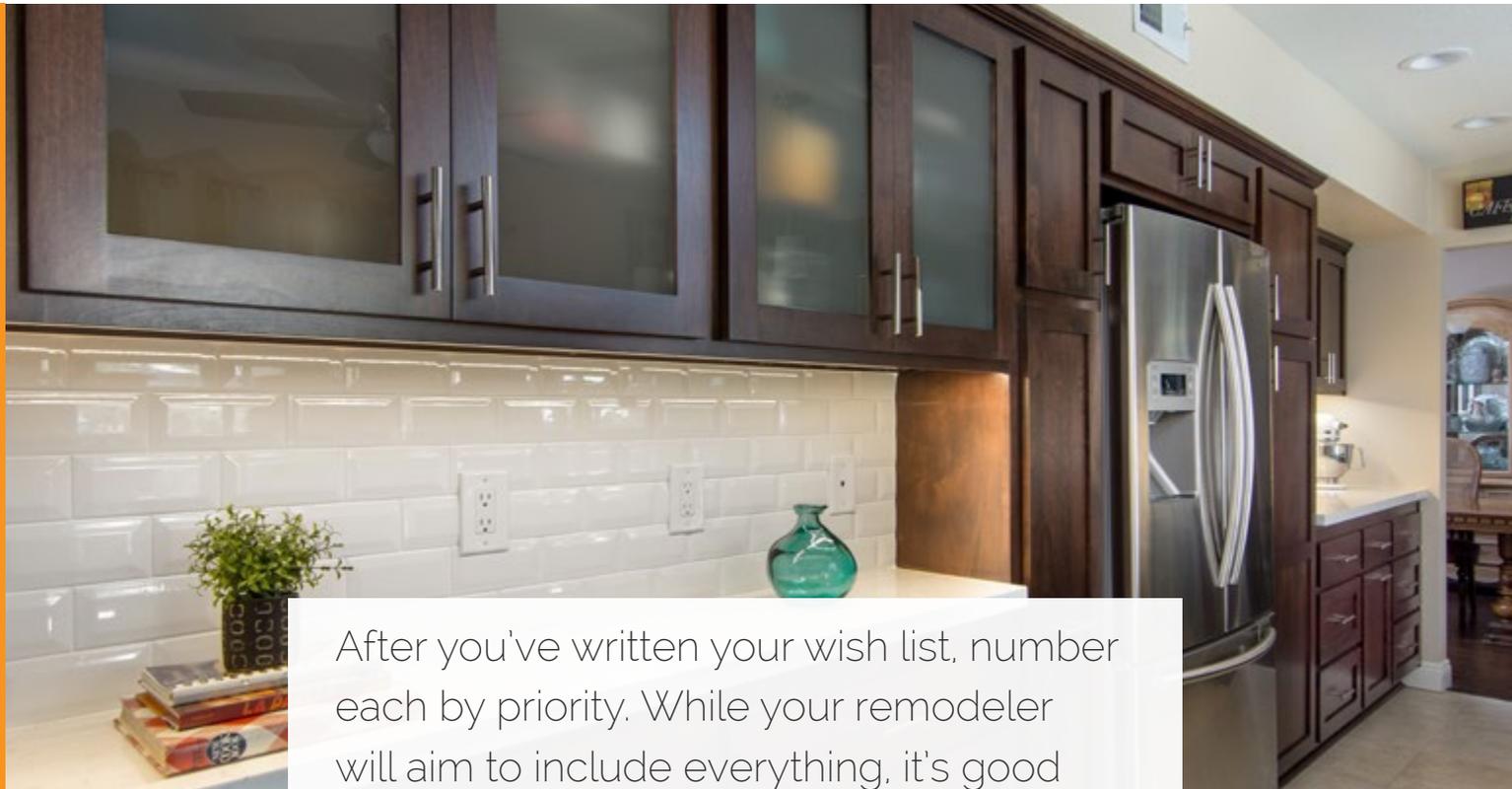
Farmhouse



Style is important, but functionality is what really makes a dream kitchen. Start by considering how you actually use your kitchen. Are you a gourmet cook dreaming of a six-burner range, or a baker hoping for easy access to the many tools of your trade? Maybe you need a large workspace, or perhaps your countertops will be more for homework than food prep? Identifying how you would like to use the space will help you and your remodeler design for your life.

MY WISH LIST

Feature	Priority



After you've written your wish list, number each by priority. While your remodeler will aim to include everything, it's good to know the difference between nice-to-have and need-to-have!



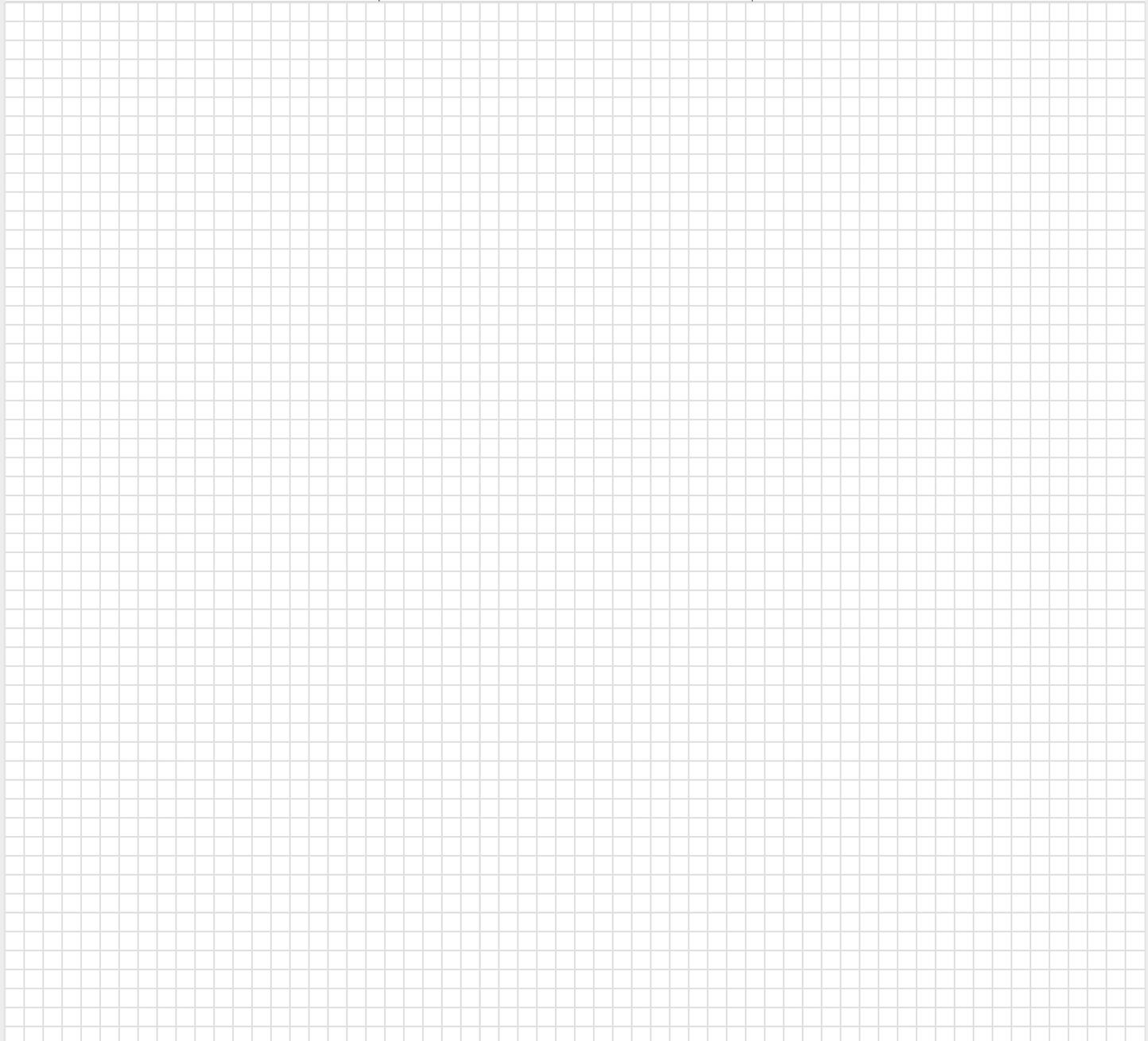
Keeping pathways at least 42-48 inches wide not only allows family and guests to comfortably navigate the space, but also makes the kitchen more desirable to potential buyers in the future.

A kitchen's layout is where style and functionality come to life. The next page is where you'll truly envision your new kitchen, complete with your wish list items. Of course, a finished kitchen isn't only about completing your wish list—it's also important to consider the following elements:

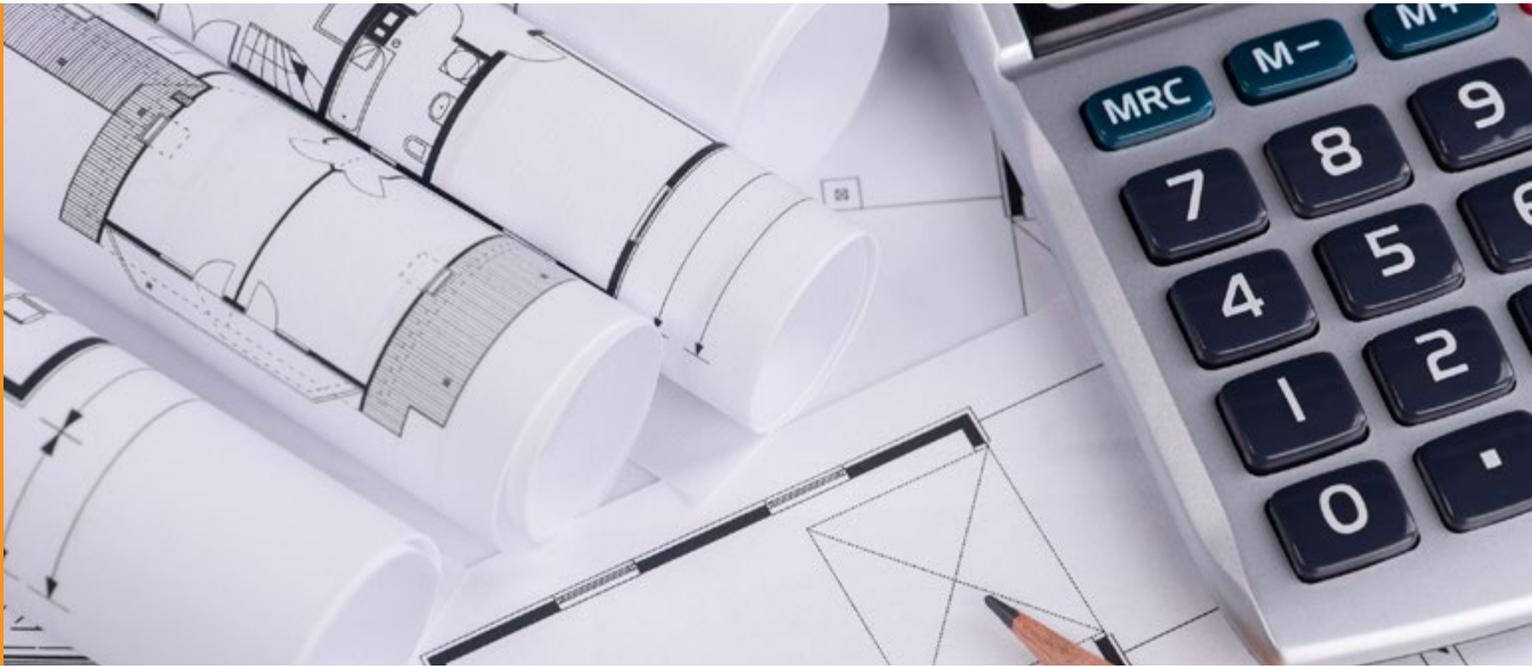
- **Flow**—Whether you frequently entertain dozens or just hope to comfortably navigate family, consider how people will be moving and working in the kitchen. Separate seating and meal prep areas to prevent prep-time collisions and avoid concentrating appliances in one area.
- **Prep spaces**—Counter space is key for easy meal prep, especially when it's placed to allow easy access to cooking implements and a sink for swift clean-up. Also consider any accessibility needs, like mobility or height restrictions, to make prep time in the kitchen pleasant for all.
- **Seating**—Are you anticipating your morning coffee at an expansive counter, or filing mail at a family computer nook? Seating needs can go far beyond the kitchen table.
- **Storage**—It's rare that a kitchen has too much storage. Pantry closets are a wonderful place to start, but don't stop there. Consider strategically placing drawers, appliances, and cabinets of varying sizes to create the optimal layout.

Use this space to begin sketching your new kitchen. Consider the placement of the following items, and be sure to add your own needs:

Island	Sink(s)	Oven
Range	Dishwasher	Refrigerator
Counter stools	Doors to adjacent rooms	Wine fridge
Spice storage	Command center	Overhead cabinets
Bookshelves		



Select a remodeling company



It's a good idea to investigate several contractors before settling on one to complete your project. Ensure you'll be satisfied with the full process and the final product by asking potential companies the following questions:

Do you have experience with projects like mine?

Ask for an extensive portfolio of kitchen projects, especially those with a scope similar to yours. Kitchen renovations are a unique combination of diverse projects, from simple cabinet refinishing to ground-up construction. Make sure your remodeler has the specific experience you need.

Do you have the staff to handle my renovation?

Sole proprietors, large corporations, and everyone in between all have their benefits and downfalls. Generally speaking, remodeling companies with specialized teams of designers, project managers, and craftsmen offer the best in quality, communication, and cost. Companies with design-build capabilities can offer more accurate cost and time estimates, as well as dedicated communication staff to ensure your project is kept on track.

Do you have a standardized process?

An excellent remodeling professional leaves nothing to chance. Choose a company with a standardized process that clearly outlines the life of your renovation from start to finish, highlighting checkpoints and milestones as well as assigning tasks. Also ask about their policies for workers on-site—are they employees or subcontractors, and will there be a site supervisor in your home? Ensure that there is a policy and process for every communication and contingency.

Can you provide references and reviews?

We receive many new clients by referral—it's the highest compliment! If you don't know anyone with direct experience working with the contractor, research thoroughly on sites like Houzz, Google, Yelp, and Facebook.

Will you get to see what your kitchen will look like before you sign a construction contract?

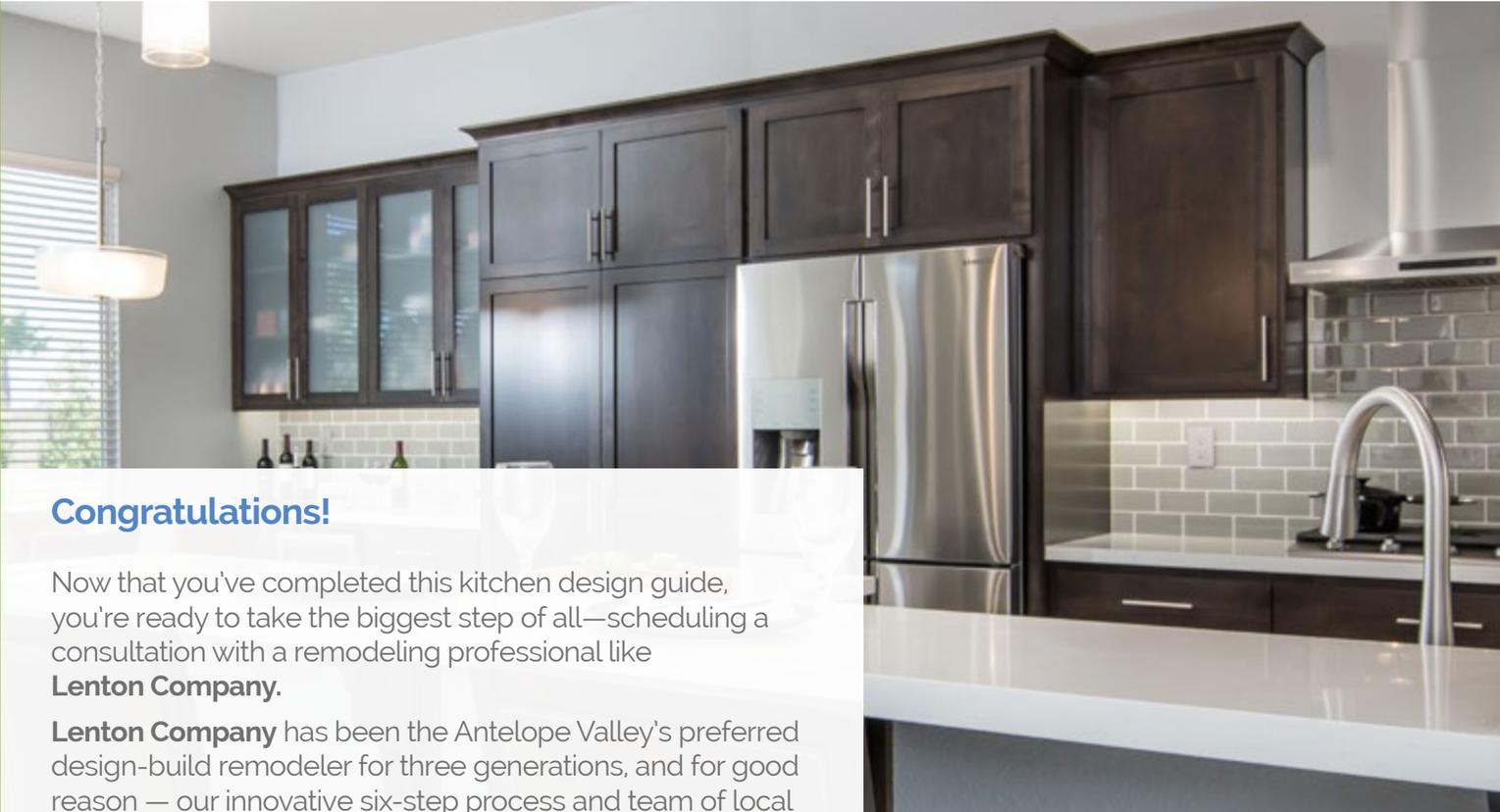
Two-dimensional floor plans and elevations give you a general idea of how a room is laid out, but with a 3D rendering, you will see all angles of a project. By viewing a vivid depiction in 3D, you can "walk through" it and know if the design will work for you.



Need help building your budget? Check out the annual cost vs. value report from Remodeler's Magazine. In this report, you'll learn the average costs for remodeling projects by project type and region of the country as well as how your renovation could affect your home's resale value.

In a perfect world, you'd end up with your dream kitchen for a dream price. That's certainly our goal! Be wary, however, of estimates that seem too good to be true. Unexpected costs can quickly add up even in the most organized and efficient projects, and frequently add 10-15% to the total budget. Some common added expenses include:

- Change orders—While you always have the right to change your mind, it's significantly less expensive to make changes before anything has been demolished or installed. Look over the scope of work carefully to make sure everything you want completed is included and choose fixtures and finishes carefully. It's a good idea to choose a remodeler with a Design Studio and 3D modeling, so you can see details in person and in a mockup of your future kitchen.
- Unforeseen challenges—Your contractor should perform a thorough initial site inspection, but issues still often crop up. Unexpected discoveries like hidden mold in a demolished wall or insect damage are all too common and should be anticipated in your budget.



Congratulations!

Now that you've completed this kitchen design guide, you're ready to take the biggest step of all—scheduling a consultation with a remodeling professional like **Lenton Company**.

Lenton Company has been the Antelope Valley's preferred design-build remodeler for three generations, and for good reason — our innovative six-step process and team of local craftsmen provide a superior remodeling experience executed with integrity. Visit lentoncompany.com to learn more about our process and people, and why we consistently win awards and recognition in the Antelope Valley and beyond.

To get started on your kitchen renovation, contact us at:

(661) 273-9179

—or—

contact@lentoncompany.com

Better yet, stop by our Palmdale Design Studio. Bring this guide and let's start turning your kitchen dreams into reality!

**530 Commerce Avenue, Suite C
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