



HOMWORK TO DO BEFORE YOU ENGAGE A KITCHEN COMPANY

A successful kitchen revamp is a collaboration between you and your chosen kitchen company. In order to ensure that this collaboration is successful there is some homework you should do before you even start chatting to kitchen companies.

Start by making some notes about what you don't like about your current kitchen. Why doesn't it work, what frustrates you and what do you not like about the look and feel of it? Next, look practically at how you work in the kitchen – what do you use the most, what do you need good access to, how do you like to operate in the kitchen, what would you like to store differently, how do you like to entertain. This will form the start of your brief.

Your brief is the main outline that the kitchen company will work to. It should help to give them in-depth information about your like, dislikes, why you are doing this project, any special needs, how you and your family operate and what aesthetics you like.

To the information you already have you should add an explanation as to why you are doing the revamp (for resale, a quick fix or to get that dream kitchen). You should outline specific wants and needs for the kitchen like power and charging stations, an eating area, pantry storage etc. Then you should stipulate your must haves. Those items you are adamant the new space must have to make you happy. Make sure the brief gives the kitchen designer a real insight into how you and your family live, what you want from the project and how your ultimate project should look on completion. The better the brief the faster the kitchen designer will be able to comprehend what you need and make it a reality.

Next is to do some homework on the type of aesthetic you like. Finishes, colour combinations, handles or handleless, granite, quartz or sintered surfacing, drawers or cupboards, monotone or colourful, coloured carcassing or plain white etc.





We don't want you to go wild on Pinterest but spend some time looking into various materials available and what you find aesthetically pleasing and will work with the rest of your home. Have some time putting a mood board or inspiration board together. This will give the designer a very quick inroad to understanding your aesthetic.

The next phase is to set your budget. Most people are afraid to give their kitchen company a budget but don't be. Having a budget guides the designer on certain key elements – how much they have to spend on materials and hardware (this is vital because they will be able to achieve your aesthetic in many different ways by using different materials.) Without a budget the designer will not know which finish to achieve your aesthetic in and may end up over quoting using materials out of your price range. The budget also helps the designer see how many drawers and special storage units you can afford as these are more costly than cupboards. The budget helps them successfully break up your available funds in such a way as to fulfil your brief and your aesthetic.

The final piece of homework is to research potential kitchen companies. Make sure you look for companies that work and specialise in kitchens within your price bracket. Look for companies with a proven track record and references. Do they have a showroom so you can see examples of the

workmanship you can expect in your home? Make sure they have trained staff and people who will hold them accountable so they can't shut up shop and disappear. Don't just take a simple referral, don't be fooled by a slick website or social media. Look into each company properly and select three to engage with moving forward.

By putting in the extra work before talking to a kitchen company you are empowering yourself with knowledge and ensuring you can't be taken for a ride. You should also consider visiting the KSA's website – our kitchen info page has reams of helpful information and guidance that will ensure you ask all the right questions when you get talking to kitchen companies.

