



KITCHEN TIMELINE

A kitchen renovation is one of the most popular home improvement projects. It's also one of the most complex – purely because there are multiple stages and tradespeople that need to be involved. Ensuring that each stage of the renovation (or new build) is perfectly coordinated will help to make it a stress-free process with a satisfying outcome.

If you have a set time by which you need to have the renovation complete you need to make sure this is clear from the onset to all contractors involved. The timeline you have allowed must be realistic and have an allowance for any delays or unexpected problems. Remember, the closer we get to the end of the year the more likely you could incur delays. Both the kitchen companies and material suppliers are at their busiest at year end and the supply chain can be erratic.

The first step is to talk to a kitchen company (we recommend a KSA member). They will help you formulate a plan and understand the timeline, and what will happen once your renovation begins. This is important to help you coordinate your various tradespeople, such as plumbers and electricians, and ensure they are booked to arrive at the correct stage in the process with all the necessary supplies to do the job.

THE GUIDELINES BELOW WILL TAKE YOU THROUGH HOW THE PROCESS GENERALLY WORKS, AND THE TIMELINES ASSOCIATED WITH EACH PHASE.

PHASE 1: DESIGNING YOUR KITCHEN (Timeline – as long as you need)

Do this at your own pace. It can take anything from one to six months or longer. What is important is that you get it right. Take your time to ensure you explore all options that will optimize your space. Thoroughly explore your material choices. Break your kitchen up into clear zones (cooking, preparation, cleaning, storage etc.) to ensure you have considered all the activities and storage needs sufficiently. There are articles and tools available to you to assist with this process.

Once you have decided on the design of your new kitchen and chosen all your finishes, fixtures and appliances, it's time to place your orders. The lead time for the manufacturing of new cabinets will vary greatly depending on the supplier and the materials you have chosen. In South Africa, kitchen cabinets are made-to-measure custom units and can take up to six weeks for carcasses to be ready for delivery. The timeline is dictated by the factory capacity of your chosen manufacturer and the schedule of jobs they have committed to prior to receiving your order. If you have ordered an imported kitchen this can take three to four months from placing the order for the goods to arrive and clear through customs.

PHASE 2:

REMOVING EXISTING CABINETS

(Timeline - 3 days to 2 weeks)

Once you have placed the order for your new cabinets the supplier will be able to give you a date for delivery. Prior to delivery of your new kitchen carcasses, your existing cabinets will need to be removed. Get the take-away menus ready as your kitchen will now be out of action.

You may choose to remove your existing cabinets yourself or employ someone to do it for you. Do not assume this is included in the quote for your new kitchen. Many kitchen companies do not get involved in the removal of old cabinets, so check first.

You will require a plumber and electrician to disconnect all your appliances, sink, tap and gas outlets before the cabinets are removed. Removal of the existing cabinets will generally take approximately 1 – 3 days.

If you are making any structural changes to your kitchen space this is the stage when it should take place. All changes must be complete prior to the date the new cabinets are due to be delivered and installed. The site will need to be weather safe – all windows installed and no rain or water able to come in. If you are intending to install new flooring, have the new flooring laid now so that the flooring covers the entire kitchen space and your new cabinets can be installed on top. Check with your builder how long they think the work will take. As a guide, minor building work will only take a day or two to complete while major structural changes will require a few weeks.



With the rare exception, all kitchen remodels typically require upgrading the electrical outlets and light fixtures. Since it's much harder to move these things later, rough installs for all plumbing and electrical work should take place at this stage, too, including wiring for your appliances and any new lighting or power points that will be installed.

Painting of walls should also be undertaken in this phase with touch ups being carried out following the worktop installation.

PHASE 3:

INSTALLING CABINET CARCASSES

(Timeline – 3 to 5 days)

Now the exciting stuff really starts to happen. Once the necessary building work has been completed, your new kitchen cabinet carcasses can be delivered and installed. This will take somewhere between 3 and 5 days, depending on the size of your kitchen. Please note, generally only the carcasses are installed with some facings sides in the chosen finished material – do not be alarmed to only see 'empty' melamine boxes.



There is still a fair amount of work that will be done on site to bring the installation to the rendered designs you fell in love with. Give the installers the space and time to work freely and unhindered. No changes to the design should be made after the plans and designs have been signed off for manufacture, this will only lead to delays and frustration and the installation deadlines not being met. This can cause additional costs too.

PHASE 4:

TEMPLATING THE WORKTOPS AND INSTALLATION OF SUCH

(Timeline – 10 to 12 days)

If you have chosen laminate, veneer or solid timber worktops for your new kitchen, they can usually be manufactured at the same time as your cabinets. This means they can be installed simultaneously by the same tradespeople.

Granite, engineered stone (Quartz and Sintered materials), solid surfacing, and stainless-steel worktops should all be installed by a specialist fabricator. They will need to be measured up and

templated first so they can be made exactly to size. Manufacturing time for these worktops is generally around 10 working days, however will vary depending on the supplier as well as the detail required for the specific job – built-up edges, mitering, specialized cut-outs, drainage grooves etc. make the work more complex and extend the timeline. Bear in mind the time of year too. The timeline will be longer the closer we get to the holidays.

Once the worktop sections are ready, the installation should take approximately 2-3 days depending on the size of your kitchen, the complexity of the installation, and if there are any additional splash-backs or cladding.



PHASE 5: **CONNECTING ELECTRICALS AND PLUMBING (Timeline – 1 to 2 days)**

When the new worktops have been installed, your plumber, electrician and gas specialist can come to site and install and connect appliances such as the oven, hobs, plumbed refrigerator, sinks and taps. Please remember that your new tops need to rest undisturbed for 48 hours after installation before use and cannot have anyone placing tools, food or weight on them.

It is recommended that you wait for 24 hours after an under-mount sink has been glued into place before having the plumbing connected. This allows time for the glue to set properly.

It is also advised that registered trades people are used to carry out these connections to ensure all the current safety regulations are complied with and your guarantees are in place. For electrical and both gas and water plumbing, they should

issue you with a certificate for the work done. This should be kept safe for insurance purposes. It is also important that you check that the correct ventilation has been left for your appliances. If they are installed without sufficient ventilation your guarantee will be void.

PHASE 6: **COMPLETING YOUR KITCHEN CABINET INSTALLATION (Timeline 2 to 5 days)**

Following the above phases, your cabinet installers will return to site and commence the fitting of your cabinet doors, drawer fascia's, handles etc.

Once the installers have advised they are complete, we would suggest that you use the KSA's Handover Checklist (available on our website and in our Consumer Guide) as a guide to systematically work through the new cabinets to ensure that all the components are in good order and that all doors and drawers are operating optimally etc. Following the installers 'leaving site', you have 7 days to check the installation and compile a written snag list of any items you are not happy with or that may require a bit of fine tuning – like the adjustment of hinges and runners. It is imperative that this snag list is submitted to the company timeously and in written format.



PHASE 7: **ENJOYING YOUR NEW KITCHEN (Timeline – a very long time if you got it right ;-)**

Gather friends and family around and enjoy your wonderful new kitchen.

Communication makes or breaks a timeline. From design to completion, clear communication allows the manufacturer to meet your expectations and lets you avoid disappointment or frustration. Client involvement, a designated key contact person and sticking to one clear form of communication all make a kitchen renovation go that much smoother. Remember, if it is not in writing it didn't happen and while WhatsApp is convenient it is not a constructive way to manage your kitchen renovation.