



LIFESPAN OF A KITCHEN

A kitchen is one of the biggest investments you will make in your home. We are often asked by people considering a new kitchen what the life span of their kitchen will be and whether they will need to do this again in their lifetime, as this will affect their decided budget this time.

A well-built kitchen using quality materials and hardware should last you around ten to fifteen years. This may not be as long as you had thought but in reality, a kitchen starts to look dated after about fifteen years. This is why it is so important to consider the quality of the materials you chose and whether they will date aesthetically. It is often the aesthetic that goes out of fashion before the functionality.

In general, if we look at local and international trends, the average homeowner does a kitchen remodel or update every seven to ten years. High-quality kitchen units can last up to 50 years, but unless you have picked your design very carefully the look and feel will have gone out of date well before that.

The actual lifespan of your kitchen will depend on the quality of products and material used, the quality of work done during the installation, wear and tear and frequency of use. Because most kitchens consist of built in units, the quality of the build on the home can also affect the longevity of the kitchen. If there is a lot of movement in the home's structure this will be reflected in the stability of the carcass units and the joints of the surfacing. This will add to the look of wear and tear and potentially cause the worksurfaces to crack.



You can increase the lifespan of your kitchen through proper and regular maintenance, correct care and cleaning, small updates to keep it looking fresh and on-trend, and adjustments to runners and hinges, to ensure drawers operate smoothly and doors remain aligned. Here are some hints and tips to help you do this:

- Use correct cleaning products – it is vitally important that you follow the cleaning and care recommendations set out by the material supplier. Using cleaning products that are too harsh or abrasive or even using too much water can cause aesthetic and structural damage to the kitchen.
- Register your warranty and ensure you adhere to the conditions and terms of that warranty.
- Be aware of the impact of environmental factors on your kitchen – too much direct sunlight, high humidity and sea air creating salt residue on the kitchen.





- Use pot stands, trivets and protective mats instead of putting pots straight onto the work surface.
- Do not overstrain hinges by leaning on doors for support when they are open. Ensure that hinges are rubbed down with a little Q20 if in a high salt or humidity environment and are kept clean of grease build up.
- Don't overload drawers above runner's weight capacity and don't lean on them when they are open.



- If you have handles on your cupboards, keep them clean and avoid putting weight on them when opening and closing the doors.
- If you have painted doors, be aware of the damage that acrylic nails and jewellery can do to them just by opening and closing them, particularly if they have a finger grip profile.
- Avoid letting people or children climb onto the cabinets and sit on the worksurfaces.
- Be aware of how much damage even a little water can do to a kitchen – clean up larger water spills quickly and avoid water gathering on the tops of

doors. Don't clean using too much water – cloths should be damp not wet. Ensure that when you mop your floors that the underside of the doors are not continually subjected to a lot of water or moisture.

- Clean up food and drink spills quickly. Some foods and liquids have high pigment qualities and if left on work surfaces or doors can permanently stain them.

By performing minor cosmetic changes to a well-designed kitchen that has been made from materials that won't date quickly, you can keep it's ascetical lifespan going a lot longer. Think of doing some of the following updates:

- Updating old large and small appliances
- Update your lighting
- Change your wall colour
- Update soft finishes
- Add, remove or change your splashback
- Update your cabinet handles to ones that are more on-trend
- Even work surfaces can be replaced in some instances without too much of a fuss.

The reality is that the lifespan of a kitchen and how often you can update / upgrade it depends on three things

- 1) the design and materials you originally chose
- 2) the way you clean and maintain the kitchen
- 3) how deep your pockets are

A quality kitchen does not come cheap and this is why many homeowners will only redo their kitchen once, at most twice, in their lifetimes.

