



Welcome to Räke (pronounced 'rocky') Cabinet & Countertop Solutions. We welcome you to our world of many possibilities in updating/remodeling your space. Please see below for helpful tips on starting your journey to a more joyful, beautiful and useful space.

6 Tips to Save Time & Money in Preparing for a Kitchen (or any Room) Remodel

First, please know that **these tips can apply to any type of space** – for a remodel or even just a small update. I've seen remodels and cabinet / countertop replacements for studios, offices, work-out rooms, conference rooms, even boat bathrooms. Literally, almost anything can be done. And if you can help with the initial homework, it helps everyone involved and we can all get off on the right foot. Here are 6 quick tips that can save a lot of time (and the designer's/builder's hourly cost) in preparing for a remodel or simple update to any room.

1. If you haven't been doing so already, **collect inspiring photos** – those pics of kitchens you love, or parts that you like. For my own kitchen, I started thinking about new cabinets and countertops when I saw a photo in a magazine of a favorite cabinet color w/ undermount lighting that I really liked. It even gave me ideas for the wall backsplash and paint colors. At least it helped me figure out what I like and don't like.
2. For the builder/designer/cabinet maker – **take photos of your current kitchen** so they can help you figure out the best way to get what you want. Sometimes, there's a new way to handle those corner cupboards or wasted counter space.
3. Take note of **appliances** that you want to keep or replace. **Gather measurements and colors**, and if you need them purchased, start research on what you want, read reviews on types of sinks, refrigerators, dishwashers, garbage disposals, stoves, etc. Narrow down the ones you like and don't like and share model names and numbers with your installer.
4. The same idea goes for the hardware – **gather info on faucets, cabinet hardware, and lighting that may be replaced**. Lots of research can be done online to learn what's the latest in design and technology.
5. **Measure your kitchen** – this is your room dimensions, countertop dimensions and island size, etc. Then include where the outlets are for the back splash areas - maybe you need only a typical 4" backsplash, or full height (also called wall-cladding) where you may also need to accommodate new light switches, etc.
6. **Gather color samples** of your floor, wall paint swatches, tile, cabinets, appliances and kitchen furniture that you may wish to coordinate with the new design.

Super Helpful Bonus Tip: When arriving for a consultation, or even to “just look at what designs are available in a showroom”, make an appointment, as some showrooms are very busy. Or at least call ahead, so they can ensure the proper staff is there to help.

Even after all this, there's a good chance you'll change your mind on some things during or after the consultation, due to the latest in new features and technology. Use your personal choices to make the room remodel/update fit your lifestyle in convenience and look. And most importantly, to provide a space that gives you joy every time you see and use it.

Written by: Jane Zane, Marketing Manager, Räke Cabinet & Countertop Solutions, Bloomington, Indiana.