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SURVIVING A KITCHEN RENOVATION Tips on how to live comfortably at home during construction

By Nancy Mattia, CTW Features

Living in a construction zone while your kitchen is getting renovated is nobody's idea of fun. This is especially true if you work from home or can't bear a mess, and moving out temporarily is not an option. But you can learn how to make the best of a trying situation by following the advice below:

Choose a well-regarded contractor

You'll have a much better experience if you hire a contractor with a proven track record in renovating kitchens. The pro should be patient when you ask questions, should offer different options (the cost of buying new cabinets versus refurbishing your existing ones), and should be recommended by a friend or relative who recently worked with them

on their own kitchen reno. Ask if the contractor and crew were pleasant to deal with, showed up on time every morning, and cleaned up the work areas at the end of each day. Ask the pro for a contract that lists every detail, including prices.

Set up a makeshift kitchen

Think of it as a mini kitchen that has the most essential appliances and cookware that you'll need during construction. Move the fridge into the dining room or living room and set up a table to use as a countertop/prep area. Pick a few appliances you'll use most often, such as a toaster oven, electric grill, slow cooker, microwave, electric griddle, or coffeemaker. Put your dishes, flatware, and glasses in a convenient place, along with a chef's

knife, trivet, cutting board, can opener, foil, plastic containers, and a tablecloth or place mats.

Feed the family

Dining in restaurants or ordering takeout for weeks or months during construction isn't practical or financially feasible for many families; instead, for the two months leading up to the renovation's start, cook a double batch of whatever you're having for dinner each night then freeze the second batches to eat during the reno. If you prefer not to make dinner ahead of time, choose dishes that are easy to clean up after cooking since you'll most likely be washing pots and pans in your bathroom sink or tub.

Order everything early

Help your contractor stay on deadline by ordering everything you need—appliances, cabinets, countertops, flooring—well in advance of the renovation's start date. According to Home Depot, custom or semi-custom cabinets take from four to 16 weeks to be delivered after ordering. When they arrive, open every box to check that its contents are what you were expecting.

Realize that the work may take longer than anticipated

Unwelcome surprises—delayed deliveries, the discovery of water or termite damage, the need for additional permits—are common and may put an immediate halt to your renovation until the problems can be resolved. Do whatever relaxes you—yoga, hiking, calling a friend.

Hot Property

Yalecrest 2-Story Tudor

1703 Yale Ave S,
Salt Lake City, UT 84108

Step back in time and experience the enduring charm of this beautifully renovated 1929 Yalecrest Tudor, where classic elegance intertwines seamlessly with modern amenities. Crafted by Northstar Builders and curated by Megan Garrett, this home exudes timeless appeal both inside and out. Admire the traditional exterior with its stone and brickwork, ornate half-timbering, and charming archway. Inside, the main floor living spaces are flooded with natural light, connecting the living room, dining area, and gourmet kitchen. Ascend to discover the unique "dance hall" above the tandem garage, featuring a striking Batchelder fireplace. Upstairs, the primary suite boasts an ensuite and walk-in closet, accompanied by two additional bedrooms, a full bathroom, and laundry facilities. The lower level offers versatility with three rooms adaptable for various needs, along with another full bathroom. Nestled on the corner of 1700 East and Yale Avenue, enjoy picturesque surroundings framed by mature landscaping and a distinctive scalloped fence. Completing this enchanting package are an imagination-inspiring playhouse and a spacious patio, perfect for alfresco dining or entertaining, with ample room for an outdoor kitchen.

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