

TOP 5 KITCHEN MISTAKES

They always say it is good to learn from your mistakes, but making a mistake during a kitchen revamp can cost you a fortune. Rather learn from the mistakes of others. We asked KSA registered kitchen companies to tell us what the 5 most common mistakes are that consumers make during a kitchen revamp:

1) CHOICE OF SUPPLIER

Everyone is looking for a good deal. There is nothing better than thinking you have found that gem – the one man or company no one else knows of who can do the job brilliantly and save you money along the way. The KSA takes calls weekly from consumers who have opted to use a contractor, whether it is a kitchen company, builder, plumber or painter; without a proven track record and reliable references. These poor people are left with half done jobs, poor workmanship and out of pocket. It is vital you opt to work with contractors who are registered in terms of South African law, who are members of an industry body, who have fixed premises and reliable references.

2) UNDERESTIMATING THE TIME AND STRESS LEVELS OF THE JOB

A kitchen revamp is a stressful operation. You need to allow for a minimum of 4 weeks from the kitchen company starting work on site. This does not include the time for the old kitchen to be removed and any structural changes. Things do not always go smoothly once on site. Once working on site there are many factors that can affect the kitchen company's progress such as out of square walls and floors, supplier delays and delays from other contractors. These problems are common occurrences and you should prepare yourself to face at least one of them during your revamp.

Doing a revamp is dirty work and you must be ready for your home to be unsettled, dirty and dusty during this time. Sort yourself out with a makeshift kitchen in another room to allow for food prep and washing up if you are staying home while the renovation is underway. The more structural work taking place during the revamp – like new walls, floors, plumbing and electrical – the messier the job is going to be.

3) FUNDS, BUDGETS AND QUOTES

Be realistic when you are setting your budget. A good quality kitchen that will last is more expensive than you think. Don't be scared to tell the kitchen designer how much they have to work with. Without an accurate idea of the budget the kitchen designer cannot tailor their design and material choices to work within that budget. When you are comparing your quotes be sure you are comparing apples with apples. If one quote is substantially less than another we can guarantee they are not quoting on the same thing. There will be a difference in quality, materials or expertise.

4) AESTHETICS OVER FUNCTION

While you want your kitchen to look nice you can't sink your entire budget into the aesthetics. It is vital that a good portion of the budget is invested in quality hardware and raw materials. It is also vitally important that you, as the client, take the time to research, know and understand the materials you eventually choose as there are always unique care and maintenance guidelines, pros and cons to every finish.

The design too, must give as much focus to practicality as it does to form. Be guided by your designer as to the best ergonomic design for your kitchen and don't throw their recommendations out of the window in preference of aesthetics. In the long term you will be grateful for a practically designed kitchen.

5) ONCE ON SITE

Making changes once on site can cause havoc during a revamp. Any changes must be confirmed in writing and properly understood by both parties. Verbal instructions are a 'no no' and guarantee problems. Every change will incur an additional cost and will add time to your completion date. It is always best to ensure you understand the plan and materials fully before work commences and that all necessary flooring, plumbing and electrical is complete before the kitchen company begins work.