

a DIY special

KITCHEN RENOVATION YOUR WAY

The rise of DIY renovation TV shows like The Block have cast a ray of inspiration over many Australian homeowners. Many of us have started to think, why go to the experts when you can alternatively make minor but transformational changes to your kitchen and save thousands? If you believe you have the time, patience, level of responsibility and creativity to renovate your own kitchen, or you simply want some inspiration, read on for some of our favourite tips.

ORIGINAL LAYOUT

For some of us, renovating our kitchen means expansion. Sometimes that might mean knocking down the wall between your kitchen and the next room to make space for new features and design. While that might be a non-negotiable for some, if you maintain your original kitchen layout, your costs will reduce considerably. This is because walls, electrics and plumbing are usually quite costly. Plus, a lot of our kitchens only need minor changes to catch a completely different, modern look.

SMALL FEATURES

Kitchen cabinets are the main feature of your culinary room. Some can be outdated. Consider painting over any ageing shades with a neutral colour. Instead of replacing an entire cabinetry, inspect its main features. Doors, drawer knobs and certain hardware can be replaced individually, slashing the original price by more than half.



HIT REFRESH

Refreshing the colour of your kitchen is the simplest way to transform it. Old browns, greys and basically any colours from more than a decade ago can be instantly lightened up with a few coats of a bright, neutral colour. If you think the current colour of your kitchen is outdated, don't just splash another coat of the same colour on. Prospective buyers in 10 years time will likely feel the same way that you do. Make your kitchen timeless and go with white, which opens up a room. Don't forget about old timber panelling, really outdated tiles or basins with pops of discolouration. All of these can be covered with the right specialist paint required for it.

LIGHTING

Lighting creates dimension and is one of the most important features of any room. Pendant lights have become a modern trend for kitchens. They look especially dramatic illuminating an island kitchen bench or an artistic feature

within the kitchen like a sculpture (if you're one of the lucky few who have room for one!) Add synchronization to your home by installing a direct mimic of your kitchen pendant lights to the dining room. Tip: lighting directly above the dining room table will create an intimate and cosy atmosphere. These lights, or any of your choosing, can be found for a cheap cost from your local Bunnings or Ikea stores. If you're worried about changing the lights, hire an electrician, as there are laws prohibiting some types of DIY electrical work for your safety.

Remember, becoming your own kitchen renovation project manager is a timely but thoroughly rewarding task. If the job is done right, you will make big savings. So, make it a personal project, get the family involved if you can (avoid giving paint jobs to the kids) and invite your favourite guests over for a bubbly after completion to show off your reno skills.