

Managing your own trades during a kitchen renovation can be easier than expected and comes with real benefits. It gives you flexibility, cost savings, and full control over your trades, while still enjoying professional kitchen design, high-quality cabinetry, and expert installation.

Every renovation is unique, but this guide outlines the typical stages and what's involved at each step.

Stage 1: Planning & Design With The Maker

What You Do

- Liaise with other trades to obtain quotes and plan the remaining works.
- This typically includes, at a minimum:
 - Demolition contractor (or, if you're handy, you might choose to remove your existing kitchen yourself)
 - Plumber
 - Electrician
- More extensive renovations may also require:
 - Builder and/or structural engineer (for wall removal, window changes, or other structural works)
 - Splashback specialist (this could be a tiler or a glazing company, depending on your splashback)
 - Flooring contractor (for timber, hybrid, laminate, tile, or other flooring as needed)
 - Finishing trades: plasterer, ceiling fixer, and painter for final detailing

What We Do

- Our skilled, experienced & qualified Designers work with you to design your kitchen layout.
- They help you select cabinetry styles, materials, finishes, and benchtops to suit your needs and budget.

- Accessibility site assessment – your designer will guide you if you need to engage external contractors for accessibility.
- Once you proceed with The Maker Designer Kitchens, kitchen cabinetry plans will be provided, that you can then share with your trades.

Stage 2: Pre-Renovation Preparation

What You Do/What Trades You Organise

- **Demolition:** Removal of your existing kitchen (this can sometimes be done by the homeowner if appropriate).
- **Site Modifications:** Engage with a builder/structural engineer and any other contracted trades to complete any structural works such as removing or relocating walls, windows, or bulkheads.
- **Electrician:** Safely disconnect electrical services prior to demolition. Once the kitchen is removed, they return to complete electrical rough-ins to suit the new kitchen layout.
- **Plumber:** Safely disconnect plumbing prior to demolition. Once the kitchen is removed, they return to complete plumbing rough-ins to suit the new kitchen layout.

What We Do

- During this stage, once the contract is signed, the Site Supervisor will attend the site to take final cabinetry measurements.
- During this visit, the Site Supervisor can answer questions and provide guidance around trade coordination. They'll also provide a pre-works checklist for you to complete, ensuring everything is ready for installation.
- While we do not manage or liaise directly with your other trades, we provide clear advice to ensure the space is correctly prepared for cabinetry installation.



Stage 3: Cabinetry & Benchtop Installation

What You Do

- Ensure the renovation area is clear and accessible for delivery and installation.
- Confirm that all required electrical and plumbing rough-ins are completed beforehand.

What We Do

- Install your kitchen cabinetry and stone benchtops in accordance with your approved plans and agreed timeframe.
- Install stone splashbacks if these form part of your design.
- The Site Supervisor will be available during installation to answer questions and address any concerns.
- Ensure the cabinetry is fully installed and ready for your trades to complete final fit-offs.

At this stage, our scope of works is complete. The remaining steps are organised by you and your chosen trades, using the guide below.

Stage 4: Splashback Installation (if not stone)

What You Do

- If you're not using stone, you'll have to arrange installation of your chosen splashback after cabinetry and benchtops are installed.
- This may involve:
 - A Tiler (for tiled splashbacks), or
 - A glazing company (for glass splashbacks).

Stage 5: Reconnection & Fit-Off

What You Do/What Trades You Organise

- **Plumber:** Return to site to connect plumbing fittings and appliances. This typically includes the sink, tapware, dishwasher, fridge water point (if applicable), gas cooktop (if applicable), and other plumbed appliances such as steam ovens.
- **Electrician:** Return to reconnect electrical fittings, including power points, lighting, and electrical appliances.

Stage 6: Final Touches

What You Do/What Trades You Organise

- **Flooring Contractor:** Patch or install flooring if the kitchen footprint has changed or new flooring is being laid. Ideally, flooring is the last thing you'll do in your project.
- **Ceiling Fixer:** Install new cornices above cabinetry or bulkheads, if required.
- **Plasterer & Painter:** Patch and paint walls, giving your space a polished final touch.

A Final Note From Us

By managing your own trades, you maintain full control over your renovation timeline and budget, while The Maker Designer Kitchens focuses on delivering high-quality design, cabinetry and benchtops, as well as professional installation. If you ever have questions along the way, our team is always happy to provide guidance and support.



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COMPLETE KITCHEN PROCESS VIDEO