

Vexkitch Kitchen Remodeling

Small Kitchen Renovation Planning Checklist | kitchenremodelchulavistaca.com/small-kitchen-renovation/

Small Kitchen Renovation Planning Checklist

Apartments, basements and kitchenettes reward decisions made early. Work through this checklist in order -- it mirrors the planning sequence in the article, so layout, code, and budget questions get answered before finishes are chosen.

1. Measure and map the space

- ☐ Record wall lengths, ceiling height, and window/door positions.
- ☐ Mark the plumbing wall, existing drain lines, and electrical panel location.
- ☐ Measure clear floor width for galley paths (aim for 42 in minimum).
- ☐ Note fixed anchors you will not move: window, door, plumbing stack.

2. Lock the layout first

- ☐ Decide sink, range, and refrigerator positions before choosing finishes.
- ☐ Choose galley vs. L-shape based on usable wall space and walkway width.
- ☐ Keep the sink on the plumbing wall to avoid expensive line moves.
- ☐ Plan the work triangle: prep, cook, and clean within a few steps.

3. Basement kitchenette checks

- ☐ Plan drain routing to the nearest existing main drain line.
- ☐ Confirm a ducted path for the range hood to the exterior.
- ☐ Add recessed lighting over every work zone, not just the center.
- ☐ Check permits, egress, and electrical requirements before work starts.

4. Apartment and condo checks

- ☐ Get HOA or landlord written approval before ordering materials.
- ☐ Confirm quiet-hour and debris rules for deliveries and work.
- ☐ Size appliances to the room (consider 24 in ranges, counter-depth fridges).

5. Storage and hardware

- ☐ Specify full-extension pull-outs for every deep base cabinet.
- ☐ Add vertical dividers for trays, boards, and sheet pans.
- ☐ Include a tall pantry cabinet with roll-outs near the refrigerator.
- ☐ Move daily tools to a wall rail and magnetic strip to free counter space.

6. Budget order (spend in this sequence)

- ☐ Layout and plumbing decisions locked in week one.
- ☐ Storage hardware and organizers.
- ☐ Lighting: recessed cans, under-cabinet strips, sink task light.
- ☐ Durable surfaces for the sink-to-range work run.
- ☐ Finishes and decor last -- cheapest to change later.