



## **DID YOU KNOW? – November 2009**

### **This month includes:**

- **Budgeting for a Kitchen Remodel**
- **Thanksgiving Trivia**
- **Project Photo Albums**

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## **Budgeting for a Kitchen Remodel**

Budgets usually make people cringe and break out in a cold sweat. However, developing a budget is an important first step in remodeling a kitchen. A budget will ensure the project's success by:

- Keeping the project affordable and avoiding unnecessary financial strain.
- Differentiating between your needs and desires.
- Prioritizing key elements of the project and making appropriate tradeoffs. For example, a person who loves to cook may allocate more of the budget to appliances than a couple that eats out most nights.
- Creating a contingency amount for the changes or surprises which always occur.
- Making sure the budget does not run out before the work is completed.

Everyone would love a simple method to calculate a rough estimate for remodeling a kitchen. Unfortunately, each project is unique to the home and the owner's tastes. Costs can run from \$\$\$ per linear foot to \$\$\$\$\$ per linear foot depending on structural changes, cabinet type/finish, countertop material, and hardware/fixture selections.

The following factors need to be considered in developing a kitchen remodeling budget:

- Home Value – Most experts believe a kitchen remodeling project should cost 10% to 15% of a home's value. For example, the budget for a kitchen remodel in a \$250,000 house would be \$25,000 - \$37,500. Staying in these guidelines help ensure the investment is recovered when the house is sold.
- Longevity – If you plan to remain in the house for a long period time, more can be spent on the project. You will want to spend less if moving within 2-3 years.
- Floorplan – Significant changes to the layout of the kitchen, shifting the sink location, changing interior walls, or removing bulkheads will all increase cost.
- Wow Factor – Adding fancy trim and molding to impress visitors will drive the budget up. A simple update with minimal design elements and molding will reduce the cost.
- Appliances/Fixtures – Remember to include these items to avoid reusing dated appliances and fixtures in an updated kitchen. This can be a significant portion of the budget if higher end products are chosen.

Finally, it is important to share the project budget with your designer. Your design professional is a partner in the project and will recommend products and options to meet your budget and remodeling objectives.

## Thanksgiving Trivia

We are including Thanksgiving trivia for your use during the holiday or if you are selected as a game show contestant. Impress your friends and family with this newfound knowledge!

- The Pilgrim leader, Governor William Bradford organized the first Thanksgiving feast in 1621 and invited the neighboring Wampanoag Indians.
- The first Thanksgiving celebration lasted 3 days.
- President George Washington issued the first national Thanksgiving Day Proclamations in 1789 and again in 1795.
- The state of New York officially made Thanksgiving Day an annual custom in 1817.
- Sarah Joseph Hale, a magazine editor, started the Thanksgiving campaign in 1827 and it was a result of her efforts that in 1863 Thanksgiving was observed as a day for national thanksgiving and prayer.
- Abraham Lincoln issued a Thanksgiving Proclamation in 1863 and officially set aside the last Thursday of November as the national day for Thanksgiving.
- Congress passed an official proclamation in 1941 declaring Thanksgiving will be observed as a legal holiday on the fourth Thursday of November every year.

## Project Photo Albums

We updated our website to make use of today's photo sharing technology. This will allow us to show more of our work and regularly update the information for completed projects. Type/click on the link below to go to our photo gallery and take a look at any, or all, of our albums.

[http://www.thekitchenwright.com/Kitchens\\_Bathrooms\\_Showroom/photo-gallery.htm](http://www.thekitchenwright.com/Kitchens_Bathrooms_Showroom/photo-gallery.htm)

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We hope you find our newsletter helpful. If you have any questions or would like to talk with one of our professional designers about a remodeling project, please give us a call (317-848-1111), stop by our showroom in Carmel Indiana, or send us an email at [info@thekitchenwright.com](mailto:info@thekitchenwright.com).