



KITCHEN — RENOVATIONS

A COMPLETE GUIDE TO
RENOVATING YOUR KITCHEN

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INTRODUCTION



Welcome to our Kitchen Renovation Guide! Whether you're dreaming of a complete kitchen makeover or just want to freshen up the space, we're here to help. From planning and budgeting to choosing the right products and ensuring quality workmanship, our guide provides actionable advice to create a beautiful, functional kitchen that you'll enjoy for years to come. Let's dive in!



PLANNING

CREATE A KITCHEN THAT WORKS FOR YOU



Outdated kitchens may lack counter space for meal prep, have a poor flow that makes cooking a hassle, or simply doesn't accommodate the social aspects of kitchen life. The key to resolving these problems is to prioritise functionality in your kitchen design. Here's how:

1. UNDERSTAND YOUR NEEDS

Identify what's lacking in your current kitchen.

2. DESIGN THE WORKFLOW

A well-designed kitchen should include the work triangle - the sink, refrigerator, and stove should form a triangle, optimising the cooking process.

3. CONSIDER THE SOCIAL ASPECT

Consider incorporating an island or dining area that allows interaction with family members or guests while cooking. It is estimated that up to 40% of people upgrading their kitchens add an island.

4. PLAN FOR STORAGE

Approximately 75% of homeowners prioritise storage over all other functions of their kitchens. So, think about effective storage solutions to drastically improve functionality and organisation - pots, pans, appliances, groceries, and so on.



Expert Tip: Create a mock-up of your new kitchen layout using masking tape to assist you in visualising the placement and arrangement of fixtures within the space. Imagine how you would use your kitchen in this layout.

BUDGET

Determining your budget will help to narrow your options for kitchen renovations, from the appliances you choose to the worktops you can install.



WHAT IS THE EXTENT OF THE PROJECT?

Is this a minor remodel, a major overhaul, or a new build? The scope will significantly affect the budget. Factor in costs for all elements, including cabinetry, countertops, appliances, lighting, flooring, and labour. Think about what you really need, versus what would be nice to have. A good kitchen design and fitting company can help by suggesting unique economical solutions to ensure dream kitchen isn't compromised.



HOW MUCH DOES A KITCHEN RENOVATION COST?

The cost of a kitchen renovation can vary greatly. A simple cosmetic makeover can start at several thousand pounds, while a complete refurbishment with extensions can cost hundreds of thousands. The specific price depends on factors like the size of the kitchen, materials chosen, and the complexity of the project. In this guide we'll look deeper into kitchen costs.

We group kitchens into three price categories: Modular, Custom, and Bespoke.



MODULAR

(AROUND £5,000)



Pros

- Quick installation
- Cost-effective
- Design options
- Flexibility for modifications

Cons

- Limited customization
- Standardised sizes
- Generic design
- Durability concerns

Pros

- Tailored to preferences
- Perfect fit
- High-quality craftsmanship
- Unique design
- Extensive customization options
- Long-lasting durability
- Premium materials

Cons

- Higher cost
- Longer lead time
- More complex decision-making process

CUSTOM

(£15,000 - £40,000)



BESPOKE

£35,000 OR MORE



Pros

- Personalised design
- Superior craftsmanship
- Best use of space
- High-quality materials
- Luxurious feel

Cons

- Higher cost
- Longest lead time

BUDGET

HOW TO PREPARE FINANCIALLY



Preparing financially may seem daunting, but it can be broken down into simple steps.



1. ASSESS YOUR FINANCIAL COMFORT ZONE

Determine how much you can spend on your kitchen project. The amount should allow you to achieve your kitchen goals without financial strain.



2. LONG TERM VALUE

Consider the long-term value over up-front savings. Higher-quality materials and workmanship can extend the life of your kitchen and enhance enjoyment of the space. Higher-grade kitchens could even increase your home's resale value. Nationwide Building Society suggests that a new kitchen alone could add around 6% to your property's value.



3. PLAN FOR UNEXPECTED COSTS

Allocate a portion of your budget (10-20%) for unexpected expenses, e.g., structural issues or last-minute changes.



PRODUCT GUIDE

Considering the products and appliances that will be installed in your kitchen can drastically change your renovation plans. Decide on these products before finalising your plans and discuss how to install them with kitchen renovation experts.



CABINET DOORS & DECOR PANELS

Cabinet doors and decorative panels create the kitchen's style. They can be made from MFC, painted surfaces, vinyl wrap MDF, PET foil wrap MDF, solid wood, and veneer. Consider your personal taste and budget and uncover the pros and cons to avoid expensive mistakes.

Painted MDF, MFC, and foil wrapped doors are cheaper. MFC doors are suitable for modern kitchens, sometimes offering anti-fingerprint properties. MFC is also less prone to dents and scratches compared to painted MDF. These doors are favoured by German kitchen manufacturers and create a modern kitchen style.

If you prefer shaker doors and are refurbishing on a budget, consider vinyl and foil wrapped MDF. These can provide the desired shaker style while being cost-effective.

Some vinyl wrap doors are prone to delamination over time, as adhesion can deteriorate on the front surface. PET foil wrapped doors, which are wrapped on all sides, have fewer issues with delamination. However, repairing a dent in a PET foil wrap can be challenging.

Another option is a painted moisture resistant MDF shaker door. Although they can be susceptible to dents and scratches, damage can be easily touched up or repainted. For a premium choice, solid wood 5-piece shaker and in-frame doors offer beautiful natural wood grain. Opting for a wooden door with V grooves can effectively disguise any hairline cracks too.

In-frame cabinet doors are the epitome of luxury handmade cabinetry. However, in-frame kitchens have a higher cost, longer installation time, and a thicker frame, resulting in smaller drawer and cupboard openings. Alternatively, a mock in-frame in solid wood or painted MDF provides a similar but more affordable aesthetic.



POPULAR DOOR STYLES PROS AND CONS

DOOR TYPE	COST	PROS	CONS
Laminate MFC & MDF	£	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Durable● Affordable● Easy to clean● Variety of designs● Customisable● Seamless edges (AirTech Technology)● Anti-fingerprint (soft matte finishes only)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Gloss surfaces● Susceptible to scratches● Limited repair options● Standard (EVA Glue) edges prone to peeling● Slab door style only
Front Vinyl Wrapped MDF	£	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Smooth surface● Cost-effective● Variety of designs● Easy to clean	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Prone to delaminating● Limited repair options
Full Foil Wrap Shaker	££	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Cost-effective● Easy to clean● Resistant to moisture	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Limited colour options● Susceptible to heat damage● Difficult to repair
Smooth Painted MDF	£££	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Customisable colours● Easy to clean● Versatile design options	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Prone to chipping● Requires careful maintenance● Susceptible to moisture damage
Gloss Lacquered MDF	£££	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● High-end appearance● Reflective and shiny● Easy to clean● Durable surface	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Susceptible to scratches● Requires careful cleaning● Limited repair options● Can show fingerprints easily
Veneered MFC	£££	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Natural wood appearance● Wide range of finishes● Durable and long-lasting	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Prone to scratching● Requires careful maintenance● Limited repair options● Susceptible to moisture damage
Solid Timber Shaker	£££	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Classic and timeless● Durable and sturdy● Natural and warm● Can be repainted	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Higher cost● Susceptible to warping● Prone to hairline paint cracks
In-Frame Wood Shaker	££££	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Elegant and traditional● Durable and sturdy● Customisable design options● Adds a luxury feel● Increases home value	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Higher cost● Susceptible to warping● Prone to hairline paint cracks● Slightly reduced drawer space

PRODUCT GUIDE

CABINET CONSTRUCTION: WHAT MAKES A GOOD CABINET?



Despite the visual similarities, there can be substantial differences in kitchen cabinet build quality and durability. Budget cabinets are made from low-density white board with thin back panels, whereas high-quality cabinets have a more durable surface and a wider range of decorative options.

Premium, durable, and reliable boards like Egger and Kronospan with 1-2mm PVC edges will offer better protection against moisture damage, scrapes, and knocks.

Sink cabinets are frequently used and are prone to leaks. Therefore, sink cabinets should have additional protection for durability and longevity too.

FLATPACK VS RIGID CABINET CONSTRUCTION

Generally, rigid cabinet construction is considered superior while flatpack furniture is considered a budget option where factories prioritise cost-cutting and less durable materials over quality. Rigid kitchen cabinets are built using computerised modern assembly lines, ensuring the structure is square and solid. Assembled cabinetry undergoes quality control checks before delivery.

FITTINGS & FIXTURES

Misaligned doors and stiff drawers are common issues in older kitchens. To ensure durability and functionality, select cabinets with high-quality fittings from Blum, Hettich, and Grass. The installation method is also important. Hinge plates screwed to the melamine faced chipboard carcass can loosen over time. We recommend securing hinge plates and doors with dowels to rely on expansion for a stronger attachment.



PRODUCT GUIDE



STORAGE SOLUTIONS

Effective kitchen design requires well-organised storage solutions. Modern cleverly engineered products efficiently utilise your kitchen space, including:

- Full extension soft closing drawers.
- Pull-out storage, ladders, and base cabinets for narrow spaces.
- Racking systems inside cabinet doors or on empty walls, maximising the capacity for storage.
- Customisable drawer organisers to save daily frustrations when hunting down utensils.
- Integrated waste and recycling bins save floor space and keep your kitchen tidy.
- Corner cabinet solutions maximise corner space via blind corner cabinets, L-shaped cabinets, and pull-out mechanisms.



Expert Tip: Mechanisms with fewer moving parts offer better performance and longevity compared to over-engineered products. Ingenuity lies in simplicity.

PRODUCT GUIDE

WORKTOPS



Kitchen surfaces take up a significant portion of the visual field and must be incredibly durable to withstand the demands of a busy kitchen. According to Houzz's "UK Kitchen Trends Study" in 2021, nearly 85% of renovating homeowners upgraded their worktops during their kitchen renovation, making it the most popular feature to upgrade. Let's explore worktop options that meet both style and functionality requirements.

LAMINATE WORKTOPS

Laminate worktops are an affordable and stylish choice, available in various finishes and textures, including wood textures, solid colours, and metallic finishes. The melamine surface of laminate worktops is durable with hygienic properties.

Advantages include their great value, wide range of colours and finishes, quick installation (within a day), and low maintenance requirements. However, the core chipboard of laminate worktops can swell if the joint seal breaks. Additionally, only inset sinks can be fitted with laminate worktops. Choosing laminate worktops with post-formed edges provides better protection from water ingress when all cut edges are well sealed.

COMPACT LAMINATE

Compact laminate bridges the gap between traditional laminate and solid surfaces, offering the advantages of a solid core and the durability of melamine. The solid core eliminates the problems of chipboard core laminate surfaces. They also have a sleek and contemporary design.

Advantages of compact laminate include durable surfaces, options for inset and undermount sinks, and fast fitting within a day. However, there is a limited choice of colours, only 12 and 20mm thicknesses, and solid core edges and draining grooves may change colour and become dull over time. Hiring professionals with experience in fitting compact laminate worktops ensures proper installation and avoids potential damage.



PRODUCT GUIDE

WORKTOPS



SOLID WOOD

Solid wood surfaces add a classic and timeless touch to your kitchen. They are timeless and appreciated for their warm touch, particularly in older or period homes.

Advantages of solid wood worktops include their warmth, affordability, quick fitting within a day, and repair options. However, they require high maintenance and are not ideal for wet or cooking areas, as water can cause irreparable damage. Wooden surfaces are religiously maintained and dried preserve their condition.

ACRYLIC/COMPOSITE WORKTOPS

Acrylic surfaces are hygienic and seamless, offering beautiful textures and finishes for a practical, low-maintenance work surface. Advantages of acrylic surfaces include their warm to touch surface as well as seamless joints and sink integration. However, dark colours are prone to scratching and they are relatively costly. The installation process takes 5-15 days.

QUARTZ WORKTOPS

Quartz surfaces are incredibly popular due to their practicality and durability. Quartz is one of the hardest-wearing manmade worktop materials, available in solid colours, speckled patterns, and textures that mimic natural marble. Advantages of quartz surfaces include structural strength, durability, wide colour choices, and repairability. However, quartz surfaces can be expensive, and certain finishes fade over time around sinks and windows. Installation takes 5-10 days.



PRODUCT GUIDE

WORKTOPS



NATURAL SURFACES: GRANITE, QUARTZITE, MARBLE & ONYX

Natural Surfaces: Granite, Quartzite, Marble, and Onyx
Natural stone worktops offer natural beauty, with each slab unique. Granite and quartzite surfaces really add a wow factor. Advantages of these worktops include their durability and uniqueness. However, they can be more brittle than quartz, require sealing due to their porous nature, and installation takes 5-10 days.

PORCELAIN WORKTOPS

Porcelain surfaces in kitchen design are relatively new but rapidly gaining popularity. They are known for exceptional durability and colour stability, even under high UV. Advantages include their design flair and long-lasting nature. However, working with and repairing porcelain can be challenging. Installation takes 5-15 days. Hiring experienced professionals with appropriate machinery is essential for fabrication.



Expert Tip: Quartz is a top choice for the best kitchen worktop, offering various design choice, durability, stain resistance, and reasonable pricing. However, the ideal surface depends on your budget and preferences. Cost-conscious buyers may prefer practical laminate surfaces with post-formed edges. For an extraordinary design, consider natural surfaces like granite and quartzite. Porcelain surfaces provide ultimate durability and luxury. The decision depends on your personal taste and specific needs.

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WORKTOPS



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WORKTOP STYLES PROS AND CONS

MATERIAL	COST	PROS	CONS
Laminate	£	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Great choice● Low cost● On-site installation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Chipboard core● Inset sink option only
Compact Laminate	££	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Durable● Sleek design● On-site installation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Limited choice● Different finish of exposed edges
Solid Wood	££	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Naturally beautiful● Repairable● Timeless● On-site installation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● High maintenance● Prone to water damage● Low heat resistance● Prone to scratches
Acrylic/Composite surfaces	£££	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Hygienic● Seamless integration● Low maintenance● Versatile design● Integrated sinks	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Prone to scratches● Costly option● Limited colours● 5 to 15-day fabrication
Natural Surfaces	££££	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Natural beauty● Unique patterns● Durable● Heat resistant● Long lasting	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Chemical sensitivity● Prone to stains● Prone to cracking● 5 to 15-day fabrication
Porcelain Surfaces	££££	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Exceptional durability● Colour stability● Low maintenance● Stain resistant● Hygienic surface	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Hard to repair● Requires expert installation● 5 to 15-day fabrication● Some designs look synthetic



PRODUCT GUIDE

SPLASHBACKS



Splashbacks protect walls with a stylish touch. The options for kitchen splashbacks each have unique characteristics and benefits.

GLASS SPLASHBACKS

Glass splashbacks are sleek, hygienic, easy to clean, and can be painted any colour. Installation may be slow as they need to be measured and fabricated in the factory.

LAMINATE SPLASHBACKS

Laminate splashbacks are affordable, can match laminate worktops for a pop of colour, and are made from durable melamine sheets. They can be cut and installed on-site.

ALUSPLASH

This fire-resistant, grout-free aluminium splashback is easy to clean, has a contemporary look and can be cut to size during installation.

PORCELAIN TILES

Porcelain tiles are elegant with many materials and finishes yet are easy to clean and maintain for busy kitchens.

QUARTZ SPLASHBACKS

Quartz is durable, heat-resistant, easy to clean, and can be match the worktop or become a feature element.

GRANITE SPLASHBACKS

These splashbacks offer a unique look and texture while being durable, moisture-resistant, and heat resistant.



Expert Tip: Our top recommendation is Alusplash due to its low maintenance, sustainability, and moisture-resistant properties. It's also cost-effective and quick to install.

PRODUCT GUIDE

APPLIANCES



Kitchen appliances create a functional and efficient cooking space. The oven type, hob, ventilation unit, microwave, washing machine and tumble dryer, and dishwasher are all essential appliances for most modern kitchens. Planning the kitchen around these appliances is a must.

The size of the kitchen will greatly impact which appliances you choose and how you renovate your kitchen. For example, larger kitchens suit a range-style cooker with an integrated hob as a statement piece. For ventilation, there are various options, ranging from sleek stainless steel to traditional canopy and built-in extractor hoods that match your kitchen's aesthetics. Vented hobs are also popular due to their sleek design and suitability when traditional venting options are impractical.

Built-in microwaves can save counter space and create a sleek, integrated look. Integrated washing machine and tumble dryer models can be hidden behind cabinet doors for a streamlined look. Likewise, an integrated dishwasher will give your kitchen a cohesive look. Including a television in kitchen design is increasingly popular, especially in open-concept homes.

A survey by Direct Line Home Insurance revealed that over half of British homeowners prefer open-plan kitchens with appliances such as this. The television in an open-plan kitchen can be mounted on a wall or integrated into a cabinet to keep countertop space clear.

FREESTANDING VS BUILT-IN APPLIANCES

Many opt for fully integrated appliances for aesthetic reasons and practical benefits and convenience. Another advantage is the seamless integration, where easy-to-clean surfaces prevent food from getting trapped in hard-to-reach areas.

Additionally, modern vented hobs can eliminate the need for a cooker hood by filtering odours externally. However, freestanding appliances have advantages too, such as larger capacity plus easier maintenance and replacement. Traditional appliances also add character that may be harder to achieve with integrated appliances.



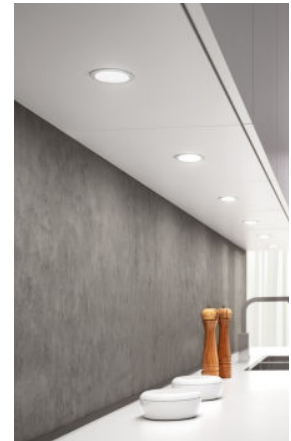
PRODUCT GUIDE

LIGHTING



Expert Tip: Always capitalise on natural light – nothing beats a light and airy feel.

Lighting sets the mood and functionality of your kitchen. 65% of homeowners considered lighting to be one of the most important features in their kitchen's design. And yet, many homeowners overlook lighting or make it an afterthought, which can lead to a kitchen that's too dim or harshly lit. Well-planned lighting is essential. Our designers consider three types of lighting to create a balanced, inviting kitchen space.



AMBIENT LIGHTING

This is the main source of light, usually from ceiling fixtures, providing general illumination, making your kitchen bright and inviting.

TASK LIGHTING

Installed for specific tasks, such as cooking or reading recipes. Under-cabinet lights are a popular form, illuminating worktops for food preparation.



ACCENT LIGHTING

This adds depth and dimension, such as in-cabinet lighting or toe-kick lighting that adds a subtle glow.



PRODUCT GUIDE

SUSTAINABILITY



As sustainability awareness grows, homeowners are seeking to minimise the environmental impact of kitchen remodels. But it can be hard to keep up with the fast-evolving product market of sustainable materials and energy-efficient appliances. This is where Kraus Kitchens can help you build an eco-friendlier kitchen.

ENERGY EFFICIENT APPLIANCES

A survey by Euronics found that 57% of homeowners in the UK planned to make their kitchen 'smart' in the next 2-3 years, highlighting the trend of technology integration in kitchen design. Appliances with a high energy efficiency rating lower your carbon footprint and can reduce energy bills. Look for the Energy Star label, a guarantee of energy efficiency. We recommend a range of appliances based on excellent customer experiences and quality manufacturing.

WATER & ENERGY-SAVING TAPS

Installing taps that reduce water usage without compromising functionality, such as low flow taps and aerators, can save thousands of litres each year while maintaining good water pressure. We recommend Quooker taps, which generate instant hot water, using 50% less energy than a kitchen boiler, with a high-vacuum installation. They are an energy-efficient way to produce hot water with the cost estimated to be three pence per day (one penny per litre) against 26p per litre for the average kettle.

SUSTAINABLE MATERIALS

Sustainably sourced materials for cabinets, worktops, and floors can significantly reduce your kitchen's environmental impact. A 2020 study from Wickes found that over 70% of UK homeowners think it's important to make sustainable choices when renovating their homes, including the kitchen. So, look for woods certified by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC), recycled glass for splashbacks, and countertops made from recycled or renewable materials.

NATURAL LIGHTING

Maximising natural light reduces the need for artificial lighting during the day, reducing energy consumption. Plan your kitchen layout to take advantage of existing windows or add a skylight if possible.

WORKMANSHIP

No matter your budget, any kitchen design can fall flat without skilled installation. Misaligned cabinets, poorly fitted appliances, and shoddy finishes compromise the aesthetics and functionality of your kitchen. This can lead to inconvenient and costly future repairs.

TO ENSURE QUALITY WORKMANSHIP, FOLLOW THESE GUIDELINES



1. FIND A SPECIALISED KITCHEN INSTALLATION TEAM

While general builders may offer kitchen fitting services, it's best to hire professionals with specific knowledge and experience in kitchen installations. They are equipped to achieve precision and maintain high standards.

2. ASSESS THE TEAM'S PROBLEM-SOLVING SKILLS

A reliable team will stay committed when issues arise. Look for a communicative team that is accustomed to working together. A close-knit team will work through hurdles and resolve problems efficiently, whereas competing tradespeople may blame each other.

3. SEEK TRADESPEOPLE WITH INTEGRITY

Look for tradespeople who have personal integrity and pride in their work. Trust your gut when selecting individuals who are honest, hardworking, and continuously learn and improve.

4. MAINTAIN OPEN COMMUNICATION

Communicate openly with the installation team about questions or uncertainties. Discussing details ensures clarity and prevents misunderstandings.

5. LOOK FOR A TEAM THAT CARES ABOUT YOUR HOME

Professional kitchen installers will prioritise the protection of your home. They will use robust floor protection measures and take precautions to prevent damage.

By hiring a professional kitchen installation team, you can have confidence in a successful and well-executed kitchen installation.

ABOUT KRAUS KITCHENS

WELCOME!



In the heart of Kent, Eli and Rima successfully transform kitchens into dream spaces through their family business, Kraus Kitchens. Leveraging Eli's extensive technical knowledge and experience in kitchen fitting, combined with Rima's background in teaching, which instils discipline and a culture of continual learning, they have created a kitchen renovation service that truly stands out.

Our approach is firmly rooted in providing honest advice and ample time to make informed decisions. We prioritise sustainability by using high-quality components that have a durability rating of 20+ years. By doing so, we reduce the amount of waste generated and contribute to a cleaner environment. We are committed to promoting ethical and sustainable practices in everything we do, and believe our customers appreciate and value our approach.

WHAT'S DIFFERENT ABOUT KRAUS KITCHENS?

We only work with top-tier kitchen components made from the finest materials. From Italian decorative panels and doors to precision-engineered internal mechanisms from trusted partners in Germany, Austria, and Switzerland, we ensure that every aspect of a Kraus Kitchen exudes excellence, no matter your budget.



KRAUS
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YOUR BUDGET

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ABOUT KRAUS KITCHENS

READY FOR THE KITCHEN OF YOUR DREAMS?



Just follow these simple steps:

1. CONSULTATION

Book a design consultation with Eli and Rima, who will visit your home to understand your needs, preferences, and budget. They will present you with a multitude of options, guiding you towards your perfect kitchen design.

2. VISIT OUR SHOWROOM

Visit Our Showroom: In Sevenoaks, you can experience our range of materials and finishes first-hand. This will help you envision your dream kitchen and make informed decisions.

3. DELIVERY AND INSTALLATION

Delivery and Installation: Once your design is finalised and your order placed, a schedule of work is created. Our meticulous installation team, under the skilled eye of Eli, will bring your kitchen to life. The process is smooth, precise, and usually completed in as little as four weeks.

Your perfect kitchen, built with unmatched quality and a sustainable focus, is within reach. Let Kraus Kitchens turn your dream into a reality. Call us today to book your design consultation. We look forward to bringing your kitchen to life!

We have used Kraus Kitchens a few times and they are great! Our kitchen looks fantastic! Exactly what we wanted. Eli spent the time talking through our options with us and drew up realistic designs to help us decide on the final design. The fitting process itself was seamless, great communication and a great team! Would highly recommend!
- *Fiona Dennis*



BECAUSE QUALITY MATTERS

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