



What to Expect from Kitchen Renovation Quotes in Australia

Getting kitchen renovation quotes can feel like comparing apples and oranges. Costs differ, inclusions vary, and the wording can make a kitchen remodel harder to judge.

After many quote conversations with Australian homeowners, The Kitchen Design Centre has seen similar questions come up early. Our guide helps you compare scope, materials, service, and allowances before you decide what feels right for your home. That means fewer surprises when you start asking clearer questions.

How much does a kitchen renovation cost in Melbourne?

Kitchen renovation costs vary with the scope, not with a single standard price. Most projects fall into one of three broad tiers:

- **Cosmetic updates** usually keep the existing kitchen layout and change visible finishes, such as doors, handles, paint, or small surface details.
- **Partial [renovations](#)** go further, with changes to working elements such as cabinetry, benchtops, splashbacks, appliances, or selected layout details.
- **Full [bespoke kitchen builds](#)** start with a custom design, then move through manufacturing, installation, and trade coordination for the whole space.

The HIA Kitchens and Bathrooms Report is a useful industry reference for broad cost ranges, but your home's requirements matter more than any general figure.

Small kitchen renovations usually involve fewer changes, simpler finishes, or a retained layout. Our custom kitchens start at around \$35,000, then increase with the scope and selections you choose.

Every kitchen built and installed by TKDC involves qualified cabinet makers and certified tradespeople, which is reflected in the finish and longevity of the work.

Why do kitchen renovation costs vary so much?

A quote becomes useful once broad ideas turn into measured plans. The same kitchen size can carry different allowances once layout, cabinetry, trades, and finishes are specified.

A galley kitchen usually needs a different design response than a U-shape or open-plan kitchen. Corners, island benches, appliance zones, and access points can all change how much custom work is needed.

Common cost drivers include the following.

- Larger kitchens need more cabinetry, benchtop material, hardware, and installation time.
- Layout complexity increases when corners, island benches, appliance zones, and walkways need careful planning.
- Cabinetry specifications affect the quote through door materials, finishes, drawer systems, hardware, and internal storage.
- Benchtop choices matter because material type, thickness, edge detail, joins, and installation all shape the allowance.
- Trade work can increase scope when plumbing, electrical, tiling, or gas work is involved, and kitchen lighting is reworked.
- Structural changes add another layer when walls, openings, supports, or services need alteration.

Even a kitchen makeover can vary widely once the detailed selections are made. TKDC manufactures our own cabinetry at our [Bayswater factory](#), so every specification is controlled in-house.

What every kitchen renovation quote should cover

Kitchen renovation quotes should show exactly what is being designed, built, removed, installed, and managed. A quote that only covers cabinetry and installation leaves the remaining work to be priced and coordinated separately.

Your quote should state the following.

- What design work is included, such as drawings, selections, revisions, and any design fee.
- The cabinetry details, including material, finish, internal storage, hardware, and Häfele Grass drawer systems.
- How installation will be handled, including cabinetry fitting, benchtops, hardware, and tapware.
- Which trades are included, especially electricians, plumbers, gasfitters, and tiler work.
- Whether demolition and disposal of the existing kitchen are included in the quoted scope.
- Who handles project management, trade scheduling, site access, and communication during the renovation.

A quote that excludes demolition, trade work, or project management only covers part of the renovation. You then need to price, brief, and manage those items separately.

With [Michael Simpson and Peter Schelfhout](#) as registered builders, TKDC can prepare a complete scope under one contract. Trade and construction responsibilities stay within the quoted scope, instead of sitting with separate contractors.

Are appliances and permits included in a quote?

You usually budget for appliances separately from the renovation quote. Your kitchen design still needs to account for placement, clearances, ventilation, and specifications before cabinetry is finalised. Confirm your selections early, so cabinet sizes and service locations are planned around the appliances you choose.

Permits depend on the work involved. Cosmetic updates rarely need council approval, but structural changes, plumbing relocation, or electrical alterations may. Your quote should state who lodges permits and who pays for them. At TKDC, a dedicated client manager coordinates scope and responsibility from the outset, so there are no grey areas.

The engineered stone ban and what it means for your benchtop

Australia's engineered stone ban took effect in July 2024 because of silicosis risks linked to silica dust. For new kitchens, this changes how many homeowners think about stone benchtops.

Common alternatives include porcelain surfaces such as Dekton and Neolith, natural stone such as granite, marble and travertine, and laminate. Quartz products that fall under engineered stone are no longer specified for new benchtops.

Benchtop selection can shift a kitchen renovation quote in a meaningful way. TKDC designers look beyond showroom appearance and advise on cost, cleaning, durability, joins, and how each surface handles daily use.

Should you compare kitchen renovation quotes on price alone?

No, price is only useful when every quote is pricing the same scope. A lower quote almost always reflects fewer inclusions, lighter specifications, or more work left for you to organise.

Compare how the custom cabinetry is specified, including materials, finish, hardware, and internal storage. Check whether trades are included, who manages the project, how payment milestones work, and what workmanship warranty applies.

Two to three quotes is a reasonable benchmark, but only when the scope is identical. When one company designs, manufactures, and installs your kitchen, the quoted work is easier to track through delivery.

How to get a kitchen renovation quote worth trusting

A reliable quote starts with a proper consultation process. A phone call figure or online estimate gives you a starting point, not the details needed for renovation decisions.

The kitchen [renovation process](#) should include a home visit, measured plans, and a clear understanding of how your household uses the kitchen. Your layout, materials, finishes, and storage are then worked through in 3D, so you can see the design before committing.

At TKDC, we call this stage your Project Costing. We prepare it after the home visit and 3D design session, so the figure reflects what you have designed and agreed on.

Talk to a kitchen designer without the pressure

Starting the conversation does not commit you to a renovation. It gives you space to see options, understand the process, and ask questions clearly. You can talk through your ideas before making any firm decisions.

Visit one of TKDC's three [Melbourne showrooms](#) in [Blackburn](#), [Essendon](#), or [Eltham](#) with no appointment needed. Each showroom has full-size kitchen displays and welcomes walk-ins during opening hours. You can also book a [kitchen project consultation](#) when you are ready for the next step.