



**2018**

**APRIL**

**I NEVER LOSE**  
*Either I win  
or I learn*

## **I— New Kitchen Survey: Cost to Remodel. Houzz recently surveyed 1700 users to help you budget for a kitchen remodel!** by Mitchell Parker

Let's first take a look at some overall average breakdowns based on the size of a kitchen. The survey distinguishes between large kitchens (200 square feet or more) and small kitchens (less than 200 square feet). This Los Angeles kitchen would be considered large at 295 square feet.



We start with size because your square footage will generally dictate the amount of materials you'll spend money on, so it's a good baseline. That isn't to say a 200-square-foot kitchen in New York City will cost the same to remodel as a 200-square-foot kitchen in Houston. Again, a lot of other factors will be at play.

The following are averages of costs reported by homeowners in the survey, and can give you an idea of how to start budgeting.

### **Cost of Remodeling a Small Kitchen**



The cost of undertaking a major remodel of a kitchen that's less than 200 square feet averages \$25,800, based on the costs reported by survey respondents. For the purposes of this survey, a major remodel includes replacing all the cabinetry and appliances. Diving deeper into your own project, you'll have to consider that custom cabinets will cost significantly more than prefabricated ones. And new state-of-the-art appliances will cost considerably more than, say, the floor units at a big-box store or those purchased in an online holiday sale.

Remodels that didn't include replacing the appliances and cabinets were considered minor for the sake of the survey. The average cost of a minor remodel in a less-than-200-square-foot kitchen was \$13,700.

### **Cost of Remodeling a Large Kitchen**

The average cost of undertaking a major remodel of a kitchen 200 square feet or more was \$42,000, according to the survey. A minor remodel of such a kitchen averaged \$22,000.

## Where to Splurge and Where to Save

Among the surveyed homeowners, 42 percent are splurging on countertops for their remodels. And many are going for engineered quartz, shown here, which has overtaken granite as the most popular countertop choice, or natural stone such as granite. Other top splurges include appliances and cabinets.

Homeowners are finding ways to save on flooring, backsplashes and light fixtures.

## What's Popular?

If you're wondering where to put your money in terms of style, colors or for resale value, it can help to look at the most popular selections among other renovating homeowners out there.



Classic colors and finishes are classics for a reason: They have staying power, appeal to more current (and future) homeowners and give individuals the ability to personalize in subtle ways, such as through a quick update in wall paint or accessories. But as the kitchen has become a popular hub for cooking meals, doing homework, organizing schedules and actually sitting down to eat, people tend to gravitate toward colors that create a fresh and invigorating atmosphere. And neutral, cool colors do that well.

This photo captures one of the most popular aesthetics homeowners reported in the survey: stainless steel appliances, granite countertops, wood floors, white Shaker-style cabinets, white backsplash and gray walls.

Here, the previous recipe gets tweaked to include the popular white engineered quartz countertops mentioned in the survey, white walls instead of gray and a paneled refrigerator to tone down the steel. The designer amped up what could have been a monochrome space by introducing glamorous brass finishes in the cabinet hardware, faucet, range detailing and light fixture. A rich stain on the wood floor warms the space even more.



## II—4 Best Home Improvements to Put More Money in your Pocket! By Ronna Schmerin

Remodeling your home can be a great way to increase its value and ensure you get good returns when it comes time to sell. But before you go tearing out your floors or adding another bedroom, take note: Not all projects are created equal. In fact, according to recent data from Remodeling magazine's Cost vs. Value report, there's a pretty big discrepancy between which projects deliver high returns and those that don't.

Want to make sure your remodels are worth the effort? Here are some top options:

- **Get a new garage door.** It seems simple, but replacing your garage door is the most value-adding project you can take on. On average, it delivers returns of more than 98 percent upon resale.
- **Focus on curb appeal.** Upgrades to exterior areas saw serious growth over the last year. Wood deck additions increased over 18 percent in value, while stone veneer installation value was up almost 14 percent.
- **Replace your entry door.** Don't bother sprucing up old doors. Replacing them with steel models can deliver a whopping 91 percent ROI. And at an average cost of \$1,471, they're one of the most affordable updates for your home.
- **Upgrade your kitchen.** Minor kitchen remodels continue to be a top value-adding project. This year, the average small remodel adds about \$17,193 to your home's value and recoups more than 81 percent of your costs.

You might want to rule out projects like backyard patios, master suite additions and major kitchen remodels -- they're notorious for low returns. If you're looking to boost your home's value and increase its marketability, focus your efforts on projects that improve aesthetics and add ease and convenience instead.

## Brick Faux Wall Panels vs. Real Brick: Pros and Cons,

By Brian Kampe

Utilized by builders for its stability, permanence and natural beauty, brick has long been a defining architectural detail of historic properties. And when it comes to interiors, exposed brick walls can add texture, warmth and personality to any setting.



Unfortunately, because it's incredibly heavy and requires the specialized skills of a mason, using brick as a building material or design choice is traditionally considered to be outside the realm of most DIYers.

However, more and more homeowners and DIY enthusiasts are discovering an easy-to-use alternative that evokes the natural beauty and appeal of brick—without all the heavy lifting.

## Brick Faux Wall Panels vs. Real Brick

Cost-effective, durable, and, best of all, easy to install—brick faux wall panels have become incredibly popular in recent years among homeowners and designers looking to create the look of real brick.

The lightweight panels are designed to be easy to install for any DIYer using construction adhesive and an ordinary electric drill.

Additional advantages of using faux brick paneling include:

- **Cost** – Brick faux wall panels enable homeowners to create realistic environments at a fraction of the

- **Weight** – In addition to ease of installation, weight also impacts a project budget through higher transportation costs for the materials.
- **Durability** – Real brick can last for centuries, but it's also vulnerable to chipping and cracking. And bricks that become damaged are difficult to replace. Brick wall panels are far less vulnerable to such damage.
- **Maintenance** – Real brick can be dusty and messy, which is why using a special sealant is recommended. Left unsealed, porous brick walls also attract dirt and can be nearly impossible to clean. Faux brick wall panels clean easily and require little to no maintenance.

**Color and Style Options** – Real brick, found mostly in shades of red, also comes in a few other colors that may or may not be easily available. Brick wall paneling is available in a much wider variety of styles; plus, at least one manufacturer offers custom colors and color-matching capabilities.

### With Versatile Faux Wall Panels, You Can Build It

Since they're ideal for a range of interior and exterior projects, high-quality faux wall panels add considerable versatility to your home improvement options. For example, people are using them for everything from interior and exterior detail walls to kitchen backsplashes and rustic-looking fireplace settings.

In a business setting, they can be used for retail displays and interiors, innovative signage, and more. In addition to enhancing residential and retail spaces, faux wall panels can add a distinctive touch in hospitality, entertainment and trade show environments.

Versatility is key—even more so when you consider that faux wall paneling is available not just in brick, but also in other simulated materials such as wood, stone, slate, metal and even bamboo.

All things considered, nothing beats the look and feel of a real brick wall, but faux wall panels are a versatile, visually appealing alternative. And faux wall panels offer countless options that will save you time and money while bringing your vision to life with realistic results.

**THE NOVI HOME and garden SHOW**  
Home Improvement & Services  
Decorating • Landscaping  
**April 6-8, 2018**  
novihomeshow.com

**COMPLIMENTARY TICKET**  
SHOW HOURS:  
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Ticket good for one complimentary admission. Must be received at show entrance. Box office closes one hour prior to show closing. Expires April 8, 2018.

**We welcome the month of April and Finally some warmer weather. Come and enjoy the Novi Home and Garden Show this weekend, we still have 2 free tickets—first to ask can have them.**



**Enjoy a great month!!  
Larry, Gisele and Agatha**

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\$484,900 Purchase - \$3,800/mo. Purchase Lease\* -

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