

## **Dos and Don'ts to Help Manage Your Kitchen Remodel**

- **DON'T** do it yourself. Remodeling a bedroom, dining room or family room is very different from taking on the challenge of a kitchen. A specialized designer should be brought in to figure logistics, suggest proper materials and make a functional and cost efficient room that specifically reflects your taste, style and personality. This is **NOT** a do-it-yourself project.
- **DO** think of resale value. You may be happier than ever in your home, from the location, neighbors and the town to your property, you may think you've settled for good – but don't be too sure. Sometimes being too “unique” means regrets down the road, so especially for your first remodeling project, we suggest sticking to the basics and putting thought into what others would like about your kitchen, as much as you. Someone else might own it one day and you'll want to make sure you can recoup your investment.
- **DON'T** overspend. Set a budget at the beginning of your project, including room for additional charges, and don't go over that amount – no matter what. Be proactive and figure out what you want during the months leading up to the renovation. If you want more than you can have, make a conscious decision to pick one or the other based on necessity and future projects, if one can or can't be added down the road.
- **DO** pick a qualified professional. Make sure they are qualified. Ask to see past projects and/or a portfolio and discuss your budget. It is also a good idea to ask for references. Pick the designer that satisfied your taste and style the most. You should never be persuaded to do anything you don't like or that's too high-end for your budget. A good designer will work closely with you until your dream home comes true.