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Kitchen Renovation Survival Tips:

What's the BEST way for you to help ensure a successful kitchen renovation? Be prepared and be realistic. Although your family routine will be disrupted, it does not have to be a traumatic experience. It's all part of the countdown to your new JWH Kitchen! Following are some useful guidelines from JWH to help you make the best of the situation:

PACK IT UP, THROW IT OUT OR GIVE IT AWAY:

Now's the time to sort through the deep recesses of your existing cabinetry. One critical thought as you evaluate each item to be packed: will you want to unpack it again for use in your new Kitchen? If not, let it go.

LOOK BEYOND THE KITCHEN:

The adjoining rooms will be affected by your project as well. De-clutter these areas and remove fragile items. It will make things easier to clean, rearrange, and protect against accidental damage during the renovation.

PARKING:

Where will it be easiest for you to park your car so you have easy access in/out during the day? Once the workers park their vehicles, which must be reasonably close to the house, it is not efficient for them to have to move their cars during the work day.

ACCESS:

Consider the main entry for workers into your project. Having your family use another entry during the work day will reduce the amount of job interruption. Kids walking through the work area is not recommended.

Make sure there is clear access to the main electrical panel and water shut-off. This probably means a clear path through the basement and/or garage without hazards of kids' toys, bicycles and garage equipment.

DUST CONTROL:

The goal for your Contractor is to keep the dust and debris contained to the project area. But we all know how dust travels! For added protection, keep interior doors closed and cover open doorways with plastic sheets and blue painter's tape. Plastic "zip walls" are also a great way to contain dust but provide access to the project area when needed (Home Depot.) Plastic sheets and runners on stairs (which stick to the existing carpet) are great "extra" protection (protective products.com).

Remember, every time you go in/out of the work area, dust will be tracked back into the rest of the house. This is unavoidable. Buy cheese cloth to wrap around vents and registers in all the rooms. Change your furnace filters during and after the remodel. And try to ignore the thin layer of daily dust...

WHEN TO MOVE OUT:

There are times during the renovation when it may be advisable to "get away for a few days." The refinishing of hardwood floors creates odors that most people find unpleasant. Painting can also change the air quality in the home, even with the lower VOC paints. Discuss the timing of these parts of the jobs to decide what would be best for your family. Most flooring contractors will work over the weekend to help accommodate the best times for the family to be displaced from their home.

TEMPORARY KITCHEN:

Planning for a temporary kitchen will make a big difference in how easily your family functions on a daily basis. Setting up the dining room (remove the rug and add protective table pads), an extra folding table (Costco.com) and several plastic storage bins (Home Depot) will make meal times easier. Please consider setting up the following items in a convenient space:

Cooking equipment: microwave, toaster oven, coffee pot, hot plate, medium sauce pan, electric griddle.

Storage and prep items: Refrigerator/freezer, can/bottle opener, vegetable peeler, 2 sharp knives, spatula, slotted spoon, ladle, colander, cutting board, microwave safe containers, pot holders.

Serving and Dining: One set of dishes/glasses and flatware per family member, 2 - 3 serving bowls, 2 - 3 serving spoons/forks, paper goods (plates, small cereal bowls, cups and utensils.)

Food: Keep it simple: pre-made meals for the microwave, breakfast items, snack foods, pasta...

Clean up: trash bin, trash bags, dish soap, sponge, dish towels, paper towels, broom and dust pan. Consider what sink you will be using for clean-up. Powder room pedestal sinks don't like Cheerios.

And don't forget a few wine glasses and take-out menus!

KIDS AND PETS:

Although your kids might be interested in the construction, we advise that they not enter the project area without supervision, and never during the work day. The work area needs to be considered dangerous.

The noises, dust and new faces in your home are likely to upset your pet. Please keep them away from the work area at all times for their protection as well as for the workers.

EMERGENCIES: What's an EMERGENCY?

Smoke, Fire, Water. Call 911 and call any available numbers for JWH and/or your own Contractor.

Other job-related questions are usually not emergencies and should be handled during the business day. Email is a great way to ask questions during the off-hours to make sure they are addressed as quickly as possible the next business day.

We hope this helps you to better prepare for your upcoming kitchen renovation.

Please feel free to let us know if you have any questions. And after the project, please let us know if you have other helpful ideas we can share with future Clients. Thanks!