

NEW BRUNSWICK CONSTRUCTION NETWORK

Kitchen Renovations

Questions about kitchen remodeling, cabinets,
countertops, and appliances

14 Expert Answers from Construction Brain

newbrunswickconstructionnetwork.com/construction-brain

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Q1

How much does it add to a kitchen reno if i want to move the stove from one wall to another in my Moncton house?

Moving a stove to a different wall typically adds \$2,000-\$6,000+ to your Moncton kitchen renovation, depending on whether it's electric or gas and how far you're relocating it.

For an **electric stove**, you'll need a new 240V outlet installed by a licensed electrician. The electrical contractor must obtain a wiring permit from NB Power (1-800-615-0522) before starting work, then arrange for a TIS inspection once complete. Expect \$800-\$2,500 for the electrical work, depending on the distance from your panel and accessibility behind walls. If your home has older wiring or the panel needs upgrading, costs can climb significantly.

Gas stove relocations are more complex and expensive since all gas work requires a licensed gas fitter and TIS permits. Running new gas lines through walls and floors typically costs \$1,500-\$4,000+, plus the required TIS inspection. If you're switching from electric to gas (or vice versa), you'll need both electrical work to cap the old connection and new gas installation.

Additional costs to factor in: You'll likely need drywall repair and repainting where the old connections were located (\$300-\$800), plus potential flooring repairs if the gas line runs under the floor. In Moncton's older homes, especially those built in the 1970s-1990s, accessing wall cavities can be challenging and may require opening up more drywall than expected.

The **smart approach** is to have your electrician or gas fitter assess the route during your renovation planning phase. They can identify potential obstacles like existing plumbing or structural elements that might complicate the installation. Since you're already renovating, coordinate this work with your other trades to minimize disruption and potentially save on labour costs.

Before starting any work, contact the City of Moncton Planning & Development (506-856-4375) to confirm if your kitchen layout changes require a building permit - major relocations sometimes do.

Q2

What countertop material handles the constant freeze-thaw humidity swings we get through our kitchen window in winter in NB?

Quartz engineered stone is your best bet for handling New Brunswick's brutal freeze-thaw cycles and humidity swings. Unlike natural stone, quartz is non-porous and won't absorb moisture that can freeze and cause cracking during our -25°C cold snaps followed by those sudden January thaws.

Natural granite and marble are risky choices for that window area. Even with sealing, natural stone has microscopic pores that absorb moisture. When temperatures swing from -20°C to +5°C in a day (classic NB winter weather), that trapped moisture expands and contracts, eventually causing hairline cracks or surface damage. I've seen this happen repeatedly in older Fredericton and Saint John homes where granite counters near windows develop stress cracks after 5-7 years.

Solid surface materials like Corian handle temperature swings well but can show scratches more easily. They're repairable though — a bonus if you're planning to stay long-term. Butcher block looks beautiful but requires religious maintenance in our humid climate and will warp near that window.

Laminate might seem like the budget option, but quality has improved dramatically. Modern laminates with thick substrate handle moisture better than the old stuff, though edges remain vulnerable if water gets underneath.

For your specific situation near the window, consider the **thermal shock factor**. When winter sun hits a frozen countertop, then clouds roll in and temperatures plummet, you're creating serious stress on the material. Quartz's engineered composition handles this much better than natural stone.

Installation timing matters here — if you're doing this work, schedule it for late spring through early fall when temperatures are stable. Adhesives and sealants need proper curing conditions, and you don't want installers working in sub-zero temperatures.

Budget roughly \$80-120 per square foot installed for quality quartz, \$60-100 for granite, \$40-80 for solid surface. Factor in edge treatments and any special cuts around that window area.

The smart move? Get samples of your top choices and leave them outside through a freeze-thaw cycle to see how they handle our climate firsthand.

Q3

Should i go with a downdraft vent or overhead range hood for my kitchen island in a Quispamsis open-concept reno?

For a kitchen island in Quispamsis, an overhead range hood will outperform a downdraft vent in almost every scenario. Downdrafts struggle with the physics of pulling smoke and grease downward against their natural

upward flow, especially problematic with gas cooktops where the open flame fights the downward air movement.

Performance differences are significant — overhead hoods capture cooking vapors at their source with 400-1200 CFM capacity, while downdrafts typically max out around 500 CFM and lose efficiency quickly. In your open-concept space, this matters even more since cooking odors and moisture will spread throughout your living areas without proper capture. The overhead hood creates a containment zone above your cooking surface that downdrafts simply cannot match.

Installation considerations in Quispamsis vary depending on your home's age and structure. If you're in one of the newer subdivisions built in the 2000s, your ceiling joists likely run perpendicular to the island, making ductwork routing more straightforward. Older homes may require more creative routing through floor systems. Either way, you'll need a building permit from the Town of Quispamsis Development Services since this involves structural modifications and new ductwork. The installation must comply with National Building Code 2020 requirements for kitchen ventilation — minimum 100 CFM or 5 air changes per hour.

Ductwork routing is typically easier with overhead installation since you can run ducts up through the ceiling and out through an exterior wall or roof. Downdrafts require routing through your floor system and foundation, which gets complicated if you're on a slab or have limited crawl space access. In Quispamsis's clay soil conditions, any foundation penetrations need proper sealing against moisture infiltration.

Design flexibility strongly favors overhead hoods. You can choose from sleek stainless steel designs, custom wood surrounds, or even decorative copper options that become focal points in your open concept. Island downdrafts are essentially invisible when retracted but offer no design impact. Consider a hood with variable speed controls and LED lighting — it becomes both functional ventilation and task lighting for your island workspace.

Maintenance and longevity also favor overhead hoods. Grease filters are easily accessible for monthly cleaning, and the motor placement keeps it away from cooking heat and grease exposure. Downdraft systems have motors and filters positioned where they're constantly exposed to grease and moisture, leading to more frequent repairs and shorter lifespans.

Your next step is measuring your island dimensions and ceiling height to determine proper hood sizing — typically 6 inches wider than your cooktop on each side and mounted 30-36 inches above the cooking surface. Contact the Town of Quispamsis at quispamsis.ca to discuss permit requirements, then browse licensed HVAC contractors in our New Brunswick Construction Network directory who can design the ductwork routing for your specific home layout.

Should I go with an open concept kitchen or keep the walls in my older Moncton home?

The answer depends heavily on your home's structure and your lifestyle needs. In older Moncton homes, particularly those built between the 1940s-1980s, removing walls requires careful evaluation since many were built with load-bearing walls that can't simply be taken down.

Structural considerations are critical first. Before making any decisions, you'll need a structural engineer to assess which walls are load-bearing. In post-war Moncton bungalows and split-levels, the wall separating the kitchen from the living room often carries roof loads or supports the floor above. Removing a load-bearing wall requires engineered beam installation, which adds \$3,000-\$8,000 to your project cost. You'll also need a building permit from the City of Moncton's Planning & Development department (506-856-4375) for any structural modifications.

Consider your home's era and layout. If you're in a 1950s-70s bungalow common throughout Moncton's older neighborhoods, these homes were designed with defined spaces for practical reasons - containing cooking odors, noise, and heat from the kitchen. The original galley or L-shaped kitchens in these homes often work efficiently within their footprint. However, if you're dealing with a choppy layout with multiple small rooms, opening up the space can dramatically improve flow and natural light.

Practical factors matter significantly. Open concept means cooking smells, noise from appliances, and visual clutter spread throughout your main living area. If you're a serious cook or have a busy family kitchen, keeping some separation might serve you better. Consider a partial opening - removing the upper portion of a wall while keeping a half-wall or peninsula for prep space and visual separation.

Budget implications are substantial. A full wall removal with structural modifications, electrical rerouting, flooring transitions, and kitchen renovation typically runs \$25,000-\$45,000 in the Moncton market. Compare this to refreshing your existing kitchen layout at \$18,000-\$30,000 for a quality renovation.

Start by consulting a local structural engineer to assess your options - this \$800-\$1,200 investment will give you the facts you need to make an informed decision about your Moncton home's potential.

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- Curb Appeal Construction & Landscaping ?
- Drisdelle Homes ?

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Q5

What temporary arrangements do I need during a gut renovation of my kitchen?

A gut kitchen renovation typically takes 4-8 weeks, so you'll need a functional temporary setup to maintain daily routines without breaking the bank. The key is creating a mini kitchen in another room while protecting the rest of your home from dust and debris.

Setting Up Your Temporary Kitchen

Choose a location with water access if possible — a basement rec room, dining room, or even a large bathroom works well. You'll need counter space (folding tables work), a mini fridge, microwave, toaster oven, electric kettle, and slow cooker. A portable induction cooktop gives you stovetop capability without gas connections. Set up a washing station with a large plastic tub if you're away from a sink.

Essential Appliances and Storage

Rent or buy a small chest freezer if your temporary fridge lacks freezer space — this prevents constant grocery runs. Paper plates and disposable utensils reduce cleanup, though having a few real dishes helps maintain normalcy. Pack your essential cookware in clearly labeled boxes and store everything else. A rolling cart keeps frequently used items mobile between your temporary kitchen and storage.

Protecting Your Home During Construction

In New Brunswick's older homes — especially those Victorian and post-war bungalows common in Moncton, Fredericton, and Saint John — dust control is critical. Seal off the kitchen with heavy plastic sheeting and painter's tape. Run a box fan in a window to create negative pressure, pulling dust outside rather than into living areas. Protect hardwood floors throughout the house with heavy cardboard or plastic sheeting.

Timing and Logistics

Schedule your renovation between May and September when you can grill outside and open windows for ventilation. New Brunswick's harsh winters make exterior deliveries and waste removal more challenging. Coordinate material deliveries carefully — your contractor needs clear access, but you don't want supplies blocking your temporary kitchen setup.

Professional Coordination

Your contractor should provide a detailed timeline showing when utilities will be disconnected. Electrical work requires a licensed electrician (TIS licence) and NB Power wiring permit, while plumbing modifications need a licensed plumber and TIS permit. Plan alternative arrangements when water or power will be off — sometimes this means a night at a hotel or with family.

Budget for Temporary Costs

Factor in \$500-\$1,500 for temporary kitchen setup, plus increased takeout and restaurant expenses. Many homeowners underestimate how much they'll spend on convenience foods. Stock up on non-perishables before construction starts, and consider meal prep sessions using friends' kitchens.

Next Steps

Before construction begins, photograph your current kitchen layout for reference, pack non-essential items, and set up your temporary space. Discuss the work schedule with your contractor to minimize utility disruptions and plan your temporary arrangements around the most disruptive phases of construction.

Find a Kitchen Renovations Contractor

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- [Ocean Edge Interiors Inc. ?](#)
- [The Garbage Guys Ltd ?](#)

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Q6

What electrical upgrades do I need for a kitchen renovation in New Brunswick?

Kitchen electrical upgrades in New Brunswick require careful planning to meet current code requirements and handle modern appliance loads safely. Most older kitchens fall well short of today's electrical demands, especially if you're adding an island, upgrading to induction cooking, or installing high-end appliances.

Essential Circuit Requirements

Your kitchen renovation will need dedicated 20-amp circuits for countertop outlets (minimum two circuits required by NBC 2020), plus individual circuits for major appliances. A typical upgrade includes: dishwasher circuit (15-amp), garbage disposal if applicable (15-amp), microwave or range hood (15-amp), and refrigerator (15-amp dedicated recommended). If you're installing an electric range, that requires a 240V/40-50 amp circuit, while an electric cooktop and separate wall oven each need their own 240V circuits.

Island and Peninsula Considerations

Kitchen islands and peninsulas must have at least one outlet, and the electrical feed typically runs through the floor or ceiling. In older New Brunswick homes with concrete slab foundations (common in post-war bungalows), running new circuits to an island often requires creative routing through basement ceiling or main floor walls. Plan this early since it affects both electrical rough-in and flooring installation.

Panel Capacity and Service Upgrades

Many homes built before 1990 have 100-amp electrical services that struggle with modern kitchen loads plus heat pumps, electric vehicle charging, and other upgrades. If your main panel is full or you're adding significant electrical load, you may need a service upgrade to 200 amps. This is particularly common in Fredericton's older neighborhoods, Moncton's post-war areas, and Saint John's South End where homes often have original 60-100 amp services.

Permit and Inspection Process

All electrical work requires a licensed electrical contractor and permits from NB Power (1-800-615-0522). The contractor must obtain the wiring permit before starting work, and Technical Inspection Services (TIS) conducts the final inspection once wiring is complete. Working without permits results in special inspection fees on top of regular permit costs. Never let a contractor suggest skipping permits - it creates insurance and liability issues.

GFCI and AFCI Protection

All kitchen outlets require GFCI protection, and newer installations need AFCI (arc fault) protection on most 15 and 20-amp circuits. If your home has an older panel, upgrading to AFCI-compatible breakers may require panel modifications. Some older panels cannot accommodate combination AFCI/GFCI breakers, necessitating panel replacement.

Typical Costs and Timeline

Kitchen electrical upgrades in New Brunswick typically run \$3,500-\$8,000 for a standard renovation, or \$8,000-\$15,000 if service upgrade is needed. The work takes 2-3 days for rough-in and 1 day for final connections. Schedule electrical rough-in after framing but before insulation and drywall.

Next Steps

Contact a licensed electrical contractor early in your planning process - ideally before finalizing your kitchen layout. They can assess your current service capacity and identify any panel or service upgrades needed. Find verified electrical contractors in our New Brunswick directory who understand local requirements and can coordinate properly with NB Power and TIS inspections.

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- [R.e.j Construction ?](#)
- [BCB Electric ?](#)
- [Nordic Outdoor Living and Leisure ?](#)

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Is it cheaper to paint my kitchen cabinets or replace them entirely?

Painting your existing kitchen cabinets will almost always be significantly cheaper than full replacement — typically costing \$3,000-\$8,000 versus \$15,000-\$40,000+ for new cabinets in New Brunswick homes.

Cabinet painting costs in New Brunswick typically run \$40-\$80 per door and drawer face when done professionally, or \$3,000-\$8,000 for an average kitchen. This includes thorough cleaning, sanding, priming, and two coats of high-quality paint. DIY painting can reduce costs to \$500-\$1,500 in materials, but achieving a smooth, durable finish requires significant time and skill — expect to invest 40-60 hours over multiple weekends.

The decision often comes down to your cabinet boxes' condition and your timeline. If your existing cabinets have solid wood or plywood construction (common in New Brunswick homes built before 1990), painting can give you 8-12 more years of life. However, if you're dealing with particle board boxes that are sagging, have water damage, or the door hinges are failing, replacement makes more sense long-term.

Full cabinet replacement in New Brunswick ranges from \$15,000-\$40,000+ depending on materials and complexity. Stock cabinets from big box stores start around \$150-\$300 per linear foot installed, while custom millwork can reach \$800+ per linear foot. Many New Brunswick cabinet shops offer semi-custom options in the \$400-\$600 per linear foot range — a good middle ground for quality and value.

Consider your home's age when making this decision. In older New Brunswick homes (pre-1970s), existing cabinets may not be standard sizes, making replacement more expensive due to custom work or kitchen layout changes. Painting preserves the existing footprint while updating the look.

Professional painting takes 3-5 days including drying time, while cabinet replacement typically requires 2-3 weeks from ordering to completion. If you're planning other kitchen updates (countertops, flooring, appliances), replacement might make sense to coordinate everything at once.

For the best results with either option, browse verified cabinet painters and kitchen contractors in our New Brunswick directory to get accurate quotes based on your specific kitchen layout and goals.

Find a Kitchen Renovations Contractor

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- Atlantic Business College ?
- Worry No More Handyman Services ?

- Loves Painting Ltd. ?

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Q8

What's the best flooring for a kitchen that gets a lot of foot traffic?

For high-traffic New Brunswick kitchens, luxury vinyl plank (LVP) and porcelain tile are your top performers

, offering the durability to handle busy family life while standing up to our province's muddy spring conditions and winter salt tracking.

Luxury vinyl plank has become the go-to choice for many New Brunswick homeowners, and for good reason. Quality LVP runs \$4-8 per square foot installed and delivers exceptional scratch and water resistance. Look for products with a wear layer of at least 12 mil for heavy traffic areas. The planks handle temperature fluctuations well - important in older NB homes where kitchen floors might experience seasonal movement. Brands like Coretec, Shaw, and Mohawk offer excellent options that can handle dropped pots, pet claws, and constant foot traffic without showing wear.

Porcelain tile remains the premium choice for ultimate durability, running \$8-15 per square foot installed. Choose larger format tiles (12"x24" or larger) to minimize grout lines, which are maintenance headaches in busy kitchens. Rectified edges give you tight grout lines that are easier to keep clean. The key is selecting tiles with a slip-resistance rating - especially important during our wet spring months when boots track in moisture.

Engineered hardwood can work in high-traffic kitchens if you choose wisely. Opt for harder species like hickory or white oak with aluminum oxide finishes. Expect to pay \$8-12 per square foot installed. However, be realistic about maintenance - you'll need to address spills immediately and plan for refinishing every 7-10 years in heavy-use areas.

What to avoid: Laminate flooring, despite being budget-friendly at \$3-6 per square foot, doesn't hold up to moisture around sinks and dishwashers. Traditional ceramic tile with wide grout lines becomes a cleaning nightmare. Solid hardwood, while beautiful, is prone to cupping and gapping in kitchens due to humidity changes.

Installation considerations: In older New Brunswick homes (common 1970s-1990s builds), check that your subfloor is level and solid before installation. Many contractors recommend a moisture barrier, especially in homes with crawl spaces or older concrete slabs.

Start by measuring your kitchen and getting samples of your top choices. Most flooring retailers in Moncton, Fredericton, and Saint John offer sample programs so you can see how materials look in your specific lighting

conditions.

Find a Kitchen Renovations Contractor

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- M&L Commercial and residential services ?
- Leger Steel Roofing ?
- First united design & construction inc. ?

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Q9

What's the best layout for a narrow galley kitchen in an older Fredericton home?

Galley kitchens in older Fredericton homes can be incredibly functional when designed thoughtfully — the key is maximizing your limited width while creating an efficient work triangle between sink, stove, and refrigerator.

For a typical 8-10 foot wide galley in a 1920s-1940s Fredericton home, consider placing your **sink on one wall with the dishwasher adjacent**, then positioning the range on the opposite wall with the refrigerator at one end. This creates a compact triangle that minimizes steps during meal prep. If you have a window (common in these older homes), definitely keep the sink there — natural light makes food prep much more pleasant and helps the space feel larger.

Storage becomes critical in narrow spaces. Floor-to-ceiling cabinets on both walls maximize storage without eating into your walking space. Pull-out drawers in lower cabinets work better than traditional shelves since you won't be reaching deep into corners. Consider a pantry cabinet at one end if space allows — many Fredericton homes from this era lack adequate pantry space.

The **4-foot minimum walkway** between counters is essential for two people to pass comfortably, though you can go as narrow as 3.5 feet in a pinch. Light-colored cabinets and countertops will help reflect light and make the space feel more open. Under-cabinet LED lighting eliminates shadows on work surfaces.

Electrical upgrades are often necessary in these older homes — many still have the original 60-amp service and limited kitchen outlets. You'll need a licensed electrician (TIS-licensed) and an NB Power wiring permit for any electrical work. Plan for at least two 20-amp circuits dedicated to the kitchen, plus GFCI outlets near the sink.

If you're removing walls to open up the space, you'll need a **building permit from the City of Fredericton** (506-460-2020) and likely an engineer's assessment to ensure you're not affecting structural elements. Many of these homes have load-bearing walls that can't be removed without proper reinforcement.

Start by measuring your exact dimensions and sketching different layouts. Consider hiring a kitchen designer familiar with older home challenges — they'll help you work around quirks like sloped floors, uneven walls, and existing plumbing locations that are expensive to relocate.

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- [Chim Chimney Stoves & Services Inc. ?](#)
- [Hickory Dickory Decks Moncton ?](#)

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Can I move my kitchen sink to the island during a renovation?

Yes, you can move your kitchen sink to an island, but this involves significant plumbing work that requires a licensed plumber and proper permits in New Brunswick. This is one of the more complex kitchen modifications because it affects both your water supply and drainage systems.

The biggest challenge is **drainage and venting**. Your island sink needs proper drainage slope back to the main stack, which often means running new drain lines under your floor. In New Brunswick's older homes—especially those built before the 1980s—this can involve cutting through floor joists or concrete, requiring structural considerations. The drain line needs to maintain a minimum 1% slope (1/4 inch per foot) back to your main drain stack.

Venting is equally critical under the National Building Code of Canada 2020 (effective May 1, 2025 for new applications). Island sinks typically require either an island vent that loops up above the countertop before dropping back down, or an air admittance valve (AAV) if your municipality permits them. Not all New Brunswick municipalities allow AAVs, so check with your local building authority first.

For **water supply lines**, you'll need to run hot and cold lines to the island location. This is usually easier than drainage but still requires opening walls or floors. If your home has older galvanized supply lines, this might be a good time to upgrade that section to PEX or copper.

Electrical considerations include GFCI-protected outlets for the island and potentially relocating your dishwasher if it's moving with the sink. All electrical work requires a licensed electrician and NB Power wiring permit (1-800-615-0522).

Permit requirements: You'll need a plumbing permit from NB Technical Inspection Services (TIS) at 1-888-659-3222, and likely a building permit from your municipality or Regional Service Commission if structural modifications are involved. The licensed plumber will handle the plumbing permit application.

Cost expectations for this modification typically run \$3,500-\$8,000 in New Brunswick, including plumbing rough-in, electrical work, and permits. Factors affecting price include your home's age, basement access, flooring type, and distance from existing plumbing.

Consider hiring a kitchen designer first to ensure your island placement works with your workflow and meets code requirements for clearances. Find licensed plumbers and kitchen renovation specialists in our New Brunswick Construction Network directory to get proper assessments and quotes for your specific situation.

Find a Kitchen Renovations Contractor

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- R.e.j Construction ?
- Ocean Edge Interiors Inc. ?
- Coastal Comfort Solutions - HVAC ?

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Q11

What countertop material holds up best in a busy family kitchen?

Quartz engineered stone is your best bet for a busy family kitchen — it combines the durability to handle daily chaos with virtually zero maintenance requirements.

Quartz delivers unmatched practicality for New Brunswick families. Unlike natural stone, it's non-porous so spilled juice, pasta sauce, and coffee won't stain. You can set hot pots directly from the stove (though trivets are still recommended), and it won't chip from dropped dishes like ceramic tiles might. The surface stays consistently smooth and hygienic — critical when you're prepping school lunches and family dinners daily.

Natural granite runs a close second but requires annual sealing to prevent stains. Many New Brunswick homeowners love granite's unique patterns and slightly lower cost (\$60-\$80 per square foot installed vs \$80-\$120 for quartz), but that maintenance commitment matters with busy schedules. If you choose granite, budget for professional sealing every 12-18 months.

Avoid popular but impractical choices for high-traffic kitchens. Marble looks stunning but etches from acidic spills (lemon juice, tomatoes, wine). Butcher block requires monthly oiling and careful maintenance. Concrete can crack with our freeze-thaw cycles, especially in older homes without consistent heating.

For New Brunswick's climate considerations, quartz performs exceptionally well in homes that experience temperature fluctuations during shoulder seasons. Unlike some materials, it won't expand and contract enough to cause joint issues.

Installation timing matters — most countertop fabricators need 2-3 weeks lead time, and winter installations may face delivery delays in rural areas. Plan your kitchen renovation sequence so countertops arrive after cabinetry is complete but before your final plumbing connections.

Your next step: Visit local stone yards in Moncton, Saint John, or Fredericton to see slabs in person. Lighting makes a huge difference in how patterns appear, and you'll want to feel the different textures. Expect to invest \$3,000-\$8,000 total for an average New Brunswick kitchen, depending on size and edge details.

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- Rowen Construction Inc ?
- Thomson Plumbing ?

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Q12

How long should I expect a kitchen gut renovation to take in Moncton?

A complete kitchen gut renovation in Moncton typically takes 6-10 weeks from demolition to final cleanup, though this can stretch to 12+ weeks if you're dealing with structural changes, permit delays, or custom millwork.

The timeline breaks down roughly like this: **demolition and rough-in work** (plumbing, electrical, HVAC modifications) usually takes 1-2 weeks. Since you're in Moncton, you'll need building permits from the City of Moncton's Planning & Development department (506-856-4375) if you're moving walls or doing structural work. Any electrical work requires a wiring permit from NB Power (1-800-615-0522) and must be done by a TIS-licensed electrician, with final inspection by Technical Inspection Services.

Drywall, flooring, and painting typically consume another 2-3 weeks, followed by **cabinet installation and countertop templating** which adds 1-2 weeks. Custom cabinetry can extend this significantly — local shops in the Greater Moncton area often have 6-8 week lead times, while big-box store cabinets might arrive in 2-4 weeks.

The final phase involves **appliance installation, plumbing fixtures, and electrical trim-out**, usually taking 1-2 weeks. Factor in potential delays for **appliance delivery** — supply chain issues still affect major appliances, and getting everything to arrive in sequence requires careful coordination.

Weather can impact your timeline during Moncton's winter months (November through March) if you need a dumpster for extended periods or if deliveries are affected by road conditions. Summer and fall are optimal for

major renovations.

Moncton-specific factors that might extend your timeline include the city's growing construction activity creating higher demand for skilled trades, particularly licensed plumbers and electricians. The Magnetic Hill area and newer west-end developments are seeing significant renovation activity, which can affect contractor availability.

Budget 8-10 weeks for a standard gut renovation with quality contractors, but discuss timeline expectations upfront and build in a 2-week buffer for the unexpected. A realistic timeline protects both your sanity and your contractor relationships — rushing quality work rarely ends well.

For complex projects involving structural changes or heritage homes in Moncton's older neighborhoods, consult with contractors experienced in your home's era and always secure proper permits before starting demolition.

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- [Curb Appeal Construction & Landscaping ?](#)
- [Brunswick insulation & roofing ?](#)

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What backsplash materials are trending for kitchen renovations right now?

Natural stone and large-format tiles are dominating New Brunswick kitchen renovations right now, with many homeowners moving away from traditional subway tiles toward more dramatic, statement-making backsplashes.

Natural stone slabs are the biggest trend we're seeing across Moncton, Fredericton, and Saint John. Marble-look quartz and genuine marble slabs that extend from counter to cabinet create a seamless, luxury appearance. Calacatta and Carrara patterns remain popular, but we're also seeing more dramatic veining and darker stones like Nero Marquina. These typically run \$80-150 per square foot installed, depending on the stone and complexity of the installation.

Large-format porcelain tiles (12"x24" or larger) are another major trend, especially in modern and transitional kitchens. These create fewer grout lines for a cleaner look and are much easier to maintain than traditional smaller tiles. Popular finishes include concrete-look, wood-look, and stone-look porcelain. Expect \$15-35 per square foot installed for quality large-format tiles.

The **fluted or ribbed texture trend** has made its way to New Brunswick kitchens, with vertical-lined tiles or stone creating visual interest and depth. These work particularly well in homes with higher ceilings, which are common in newer Dieppe and Riverview builds.

Bold patterns are making a comeback too. Geometric tiles, fish scales, and even carefully chosen patterned ceramics are replacing the safe subway tile approach. However, in our Maritime market, homeowners tend to choose patterns that won't feel dated in 5-10 years – think subtle geometric rather than loud prints.

For **budget-conscious renovations** (which many New Brunswick homeowners prioritize), painted glass backsplashes offer a modern look at \$8-15 per square foot. They're available in any color, easy to clean, and work especially well in smaller kitchens common in older Fredericton and Saint John homes.

Metal accents are trending as well – stainless steel strips, copper inlays, or brass trim pieces that complement cabinet hardware. This works particularly well in heritage homes where you want modern function with character.

Given New Brunswick's love of entertaining and family gatherings, **easy-maintenance materials** remain crucial. Whatever's trending, homeowners here want something that cleans easily and stands up to daily cooking. Natural stone needs sealing annually, while porcelain and glass are virtually maintenance-free.

Professional installation is highly recommended for any backsplash project, especially with natural stone or large-format tiles. Poor installation shows immediately and can affect your kitchen's resale value. Most tile installations require electrical work to relocate outlets, which must be done by a licensed electrician in New

Brunswick.

For current backsplash trends and qualified tile installers, browse verified contractors in our New Brunswick Construction Network directory.

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- M&L Commercial and residential services ?
- Rowen Construction Inc ?

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Q14

What's the best order to do things in a kitchen renovation in Fredericton?

A successful kitchen renovation in Fredericton follows a specific sequence to avoid costly delays and rework. The order matters because trades need to access walls, floors, and ceilings at different stages, and New Brunswick's building requirements add specific timing considerations.

Start with planning and permits — contact the City of Fredericton Development Services at (506) 460-2020 if you're removing walls, moving plumbing, or adding electrical circuits. Most cosmetic renovations don't need permits, but structural changes, new electrical circuits, or plumbing relocations do. Get your permits approved before ordering materials, as plan reviews can take 2-3 weeks.

Demolition comes first once permits are in hand. Strip out old cabinets, flooring, and fixtures, but be cautious with homes built before 1980 — many Fredericton homes from the post-war era contain asbestos in flooring adhesives and vermiculite insulation. If you suspect asbestos, have it tested before disturbing materials (\$300-500 for testing). Remove everything down to the studs if you're doing electrical or plumbing work.

Rough-in work happens next and must be done by licensed professionals in New Brunswick. Licensed electrical contractors (TIS licence required) handle new circuits, outlets, and lighting — they'll pull the NB Power wiring permit (1-800-615-0522) before starting. Licensed plumbers (also TIS-licensed) relocate water lines, install new drain connections, and rough-in any gas lines for ranges. This work needs TIS inspection before closing up walls.

Insulation and drywall follow once rough-ins pass inspection. Many older Fredericton homes have minimal insulation, so this is your chance to upgrade. With NBC 2020's Tier 2 energy requirements taking effect May 2025, consider upgrading to R-20+ in exterior walls if they're opened up. Drywall, taping, and priming typically take 7-10 days with proper drying time between coats.

Flooring installation comes before cabinets in most cases, especially for hardwood, luxury vinyl, or tile that runs under appliances. However, if you're installing expensive hardwood, some contractors prefer to install cabinets first to protect the flooring during installation. Discuss this timing with your flooring contractor — it varies by material and installer preference.

Cabinet installation and countertops are next. Cabinets go in first, then countertops are templated and fabricated. Quartz and granite countertops typically take 1-2 weeks from template to installation in the Fredericton area. Stone countertops cost \$80-150 per square foot installed, while laminate runs \$40-80 per square foot.

Final electrical and plumbing includes installing fixtures, outlets, switches, and connecting appliances. Your licensed electrician will complete final connections and request the TIS inspection (1-888-659-3222). Plumbers connect sinks, dishwashers, and any water filtration systems.

Paint and finishing touches wrap up the project — cabinet hardware, backsplash installation, and final cleanup. Backsplash typically goes in after countertops but before final electrical trim.

Timeline expectations for a full kitchen renovation in Fredericton: 6-12 weeks depending on scope and material availability. Factor in New Brunswick's winter limitations — if your renovation involves exterior walls or requires material deliveries to rural areas, plan around potential weather delays between November and March.

The key is coordinating trades properly and allowing adequate time for inspections. Find verified contractors familiar with Fredericton's requirements in our New Brunswick Construction Network directory to ensure your project stays on schedule and meets all local codes.

Find a Kitchen Renovations Contractor

New Brunswick Construction Network connects you with experienced contractors in the directory:

- [Macca Roofing Inc. ?](#)
- [Worry No More Handyman Services ?](#)
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