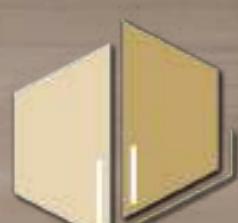


The 4 Methods to a Kitchen That Feels New

Misunderstanding these options costs homeowners time, money, or regret — often all three.



dormani
CABINET MAKEOVERS

What This Guide Is and Isn't

This isn't pro-remodeling or anti-painting—and it's **not** selling a solution.

It's a clear **framework** to understand your options before emotion or pressure takes over.

DIY tweaks exist, but they rarely change how a kitchen feels.

This guide focuses on the **four decisions** that actually matter.



Why This Feels So Confusing

Most people are only aware of the two extremes:

- Live with my kitchen
- Tear everything out and start over

When those are the only options presented, even a small visual problem starts to feel overwhelming.

This confusion isn't your fault.
It's what happens when options are shown without context.



Most homeowners aren't saying:

- "I want new cabinet boxes"
- "I want construction"
- "I want months of chaos"

They're really saying:

- "This kitchen doesn't match our life anymore"
- "It works, but I'm annoyed by it every day"
- "I'm embarrassed when people come over"
- "I want it to feel modern, solid, and intentional"

That gap is why this decision feels harder than it should.



The ONE Question That Changes Everything

Before talking about products or price, there's **one clarifying question** & the right path usually becomes obvious...



INSTEAD OF ASKING
“Do I need to
remodel?”



ASK

“What actually
needs to change
for this kitchen to
feel right?”

If the answer is:

- Style
- Finish
- Quality of doors
- Daily usability

⚠ A full remodel may not be the
logical starting point.

And that's the Gap Most Homeowners Get Stuck In

- Living with a kitchen that **“technically”** works
- Assuming the fix is bigger than it needs to be
- Putting it off **year after year**



The Kitchen Upgrade Spectrum

Most homeowners think there are only two options:

Do nothing.

Or do a full remodel.



The 4 Kitchen Upgrade Paths

In reality, there's a spectrum of upgrades — each with tradeoffs.

Mistakes happen when:

- Small problems get big solutions
- Big problems get cosmetic fixes

 A “smart upgrade” isn’t a **project or price point**.

It's choosing the option that solves the right problem — without overdoing it.



The 4 Real Paths to a New Kitchen (Without the Marketing Spin)

#1 REPLACE DOORS

#2 PAINT CABINETS

#3 CABINET MAKEOVER

#4 FULL REMODEL

LET'S BREAK
THESE DOWN 



#1 Replace Cabinet Doors

OPTION	DETAIL
WHAT IT IS	Replace only doors/drawer fronts on existing boxes
ADVANTAGES	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Updates door style• Less disruption than other methods
LIMITATIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Boxes unchanged or DIY painted
HOMEOWNER EFFORT	Low-Medium
EXPECTED COST (AVG)	\$3k-\$5k
TIMELINE	~1-2 days

#2 Paint Existing Cabinets

OPTION	DETAIL
WHAT IT IS	Painting doors and boxes
ADVANTAGES	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lower-cost visual update• Faster than rebuild
LIMITATIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No door style change• Limited to colors, cannot paint on wood-grains• Hard to find great painters
HOMEOWNER EFFORT	Low-Medium (requires cabinets emptied)
EXPECTED COST (AVG)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Paint (basic): \$3k-\$8k• Paint (premium spray/true cabinet-grade): \$5k-\$15k
TIMELINE	~3-7 days, varies w/ kitchen size



Now the Final 2

The next **two paths** are where most homeowners either gain clarity — or overcorrect...



#3 Cabinet Makeover

OPTION	DETAIL
WHAT IT IS	New doors + professional, architectural-grade surface applied in a controlled process
ADVANTAGES	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Change door style• Fixes poor-quality doors• Fast, controlled process
LIMITATIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Layout stays the same• Not for structural issues
HOMEOWNER EFFORT	Low (kitchen usable during install)
EXPECTED COST (AVG)	\$5k–\$12k
TIMELINE	~2-3 days, varies w/ kitchen size



#4 Full Remodel

OPTION	DETAIL
WHAT IT IS	Most involved & complex. Remove everything and rebuild
ADVANTAGES	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Complete layout freedom• Structural reset
LIMITATIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Highest cost• Long timelines• Major disruption• Permit & inspection delays
HOMEOWNER EFFORT	Very High
EXPECTED COST (AVG)	\$40k-\$70k+
TIMELINE	~6-10+ weeks; occasionally 6+ months with permit/inspection delays





Or DO Nothing.

but I doubt that's why you've
gotten this far =)



Most Homeowners Choose...

After comparing the four options, most homeowners naturally rule out doors-only — and choose one of these three paths.

- **Paint** → cosmetic change, keeps door style
- **Cabinet Makeover** → biggest visual upgrade, least disruption
- **Full Remodel** → layout or structural change





Finding Your Best Option

Let's break down the 3
common assumptions that
cause **confusion** with these
options

ASSUMPTION #1

To change the look, everything has to be torn out

That's only true if cabinets are failing or the layout doesn't work.

In most homes:

- Cabinets are solid
- The layout works
- The visible surfaces feel dated

Tearing everything out is **one option** — not the only one.



The KEY is... What Actually Makes a Kitchen Feel New

A kitchen feels new when **what you can see and touch** is upgraded:

- New finish or color
- New hardware
- Soft-close function
- Clean, consistent surfaces

These elements account for the majority of visual and daily-use experience — not the boxes behind them.



ASSUMPTION #2

Painting is the easiest and cheapest fix

Paint can refresh a kitchen, but it has limits.

Paint does **not**:

- Improve door quality
- Change door style
- Fix warping or wear

It looks great initially, but introduces durability issues.

If you expect a nicely finished product, good painters aren't "cheap" anymore.



ASSUMPTION #3

Remodeling is the only real solution

Remodels solve everything — including bad layouts and failing cabinets.

They also bring:

- Long timelines (6–10 weeks)
- High cost (often ~5× painting)
- Demo, dust, permits, and decision overload
- Budget creep

For many homes, this **over-solves** the problem.



Why Makeover Often Gets Missed

Cabinet Makeover sits between paint and remodel — fixing what matters without the chaos.

It's often mistaken for a compromise when it's actually a targeted solution.

For many homeowners, it fits reality:

- The kitchen works, but looks dated
- Minimal disruption
- Built to last

Professional-grade surfaces, not DIY



Clarity. Not Pressure.

**WHAT ACTUALLY MAKES A KITCHEN
FEEL NEW**



Most homeowners know where they fall.

Problems happen when the **solution** doesn't match the **problem**.

Paint changes surfaces.

Remodel replaces everything.

Cabinet Makeover targets what you see, touch, and live with.

Which Kitchen Upgrade Path Fits You?

Not a quiz. Ask yourself.

IF

- > Your layout doesn't work
- > OR cabinets are structurally failing



Full Remodel Fits
Structural problems require structural solutions

IF

- > Your layout works
- > Cabinets are solid
- > But the look or quality is dated



Cabinet Makeover Fits
Big visual upgrade.
Least disruption.

IF

- > You want a color-only refresh
- > AND you're fine with extra down-time & emptying cabinets



Paint Can Fit
Cosmetic change with limitations.

IF

- > You only want a door-style update
- > And boxes are staying as-is

Replace Doors Only
Style update, boxes unchanged.

These answers matter more than any recommendation.

The Regret Filter

Most regret doesn't come from **cost**.

It comes from **misalignment**.

- Big disruption for a small visual issue
- Cosmetic fixes for structural problems
- Not going far enough when change was needed

Alignment **prevents** regret.





No option is “wrong.”

Painting is a decision.

So is a **cabinet makeover**.

So is a **full remodel**.

What matters is fit — with your home, your tolerance, and your **goals**.

There's no single “**right**” answer.

Just the right decision for you.