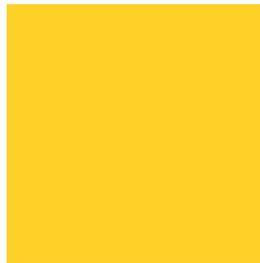


IMPROVEMENT CENTER



DIY Lighting Guide

Kitchen Lighting Installation Tips

Proper kitchen lighting can be the crowning jewel of a long yet rewarding kitchen remodel. Refer to this guide before you start installing all your lighting, and in no time at all you'll be prepping and cooking in a brightly lit area, surrounded by shining countertops and brand-new appliances.



Safety

Before you begin any lighting project, cut the power at the source — turning off a switch is not enough! If you need extra light, use a battery-powered lantern.



Tools

For most lighting installation projects, you'll need a drill, small saw, screwdrivers, and a level. If you have a slanted ceiling, a plumb bob will help you determine where the lights should be seated.



Time

Expect to spend a full day installing lighting in the average kitchen, and longer if you are planning a more ambitious project.



Cost

The expense of installing your own lighting varies greatly, depending on the lighting fixtures you choose and the tools you need to purchase.

FYI for Your DIY

This basic primer on kitchen lighting can help you understand the different types of lighting and the finer points of installing each.



Under-Cabinet Lighting

These lights require a junction box, so you will need to drill holes through the bottom of the cabinet to feed the wires through. Do this carefully, as you want the wires to be hidden by the installed lights. Cover the wires between the box and the hole with a protective metal plate.

Recessed Lighting

You'll need to cut a hole in the ceiling large enough for the canister, and depending upon the model of light, you may also need to insulate the canister. Read the instructions carefully to avoid creating a fire hazard. Once the canister is installed, hard-wire the light to the existing wires.



Traditional Overhead Lighting

Wires for these lights are likely already in the ceiling, so try to find a light fixture that fits into the same size hole as the previous fixture. Then simply follow the manufacturer's instructions for seating and wiring the light. If you are installing pendant lights, run the wires from your existing overhead light to the pendants.

Rope Lights

Rope lights are an excellent accent to your kitchen, especially above cabinets. Plus, they're easy to install, as they require only a simple outlet. Choose rope lights that stay cool to the touch to cut down on fire hazards.

