

Kitchen renovation schedule: the order of trades

From The Conduction Company, Auckland electricians



The Conduction Company wrote this schedule for homeowners running their own kitchen renovation. It lists every stage in order, who is on site, when the electrician comes, how long each stage usually takes, and what you need to decide before it starts. The electrician comes three times on a full renovation: to disconnect before demolition, to pre-wire while the walls are open, and to fit off after the benchtop and splashback are in.

#	Stage	Who is on site	When The Conduction Company's electrician comes	Typical time	Decide before this stage
1	Plan the kitchen and choose the appliances	You, the kitchen company or designer, and the electrician	First walk-through, at the planning stage, before you sign the kitchen contract if you can	Design 2 to 4 weeks; cabinets take 4 to 8 weeks to make from sign-off	Appliance models and sizes; where outlets, switches and lights go, including under-cabinet lighting; rangehood type and duct route; who supplies the appliances; whether you need a building consent
2	Disconnect and make safe	Electrician and plumber (a gasfitter too, if there is gas)	Visit 1 , before demolition. Kitchen circuits off; the rest of the house stays live	Electrician 1 to 3 hours	The disconnection date, set with the demolition date; where the temporary kitchen goes
3	Strip out the old kitchen	Demolition team, installer or builder		1 to 2 days	Leave the old kitchen in until the last moment
4	Building work, if walls or windows change	Builder (sometimes a fibre technician, to move a fibre box)		2 to 5 days	Building consent first, if the job needs one
5	Pre-wire and pre-plumb, walls open	Electrician and plumber	Visit 2 : new cables run to every new outlet, switch, light and appliance position	Electrician 6 to 12 hours	Final appliance list; final outlet, switch and light positions; LED strip details; outlet positions on a glass splashback
5a	Switchboard upgrade, only if the kitchen needs one	Electrician	Extra visit , on a day with no other trades on site	A full day, power off for most of it	Pick a day nobody is working from home
6	Linings, stopping, plastering and painting	Gib fixers, plasterers, painters (often one crew, sometimes two)	The electrician checks every cable position before the walls are lined	1 to 2 days plus drying, then painting 1 to 2 days	Nothing electrical changes after this
7	Flooring	Flooring layer		1 to 3 days plus drying	Before or after the cabinets (The Conduction Company prefers before)
8	Cabinets	Kitchen installer		1 to 3 days	Cut-outs match the appliances you chose

#	Stage	Who is on site	When The Conduction Company's electrician comes	Typical time	Decide before this stage
9	Benchtop	Benchtop maker or installer		Laminate: same day or next. Stone: measured once the cabinets are fixed, fitted about 1 to 3 weeks later	The cabinets must not move after the stone is measured
10	Splashback	Tiler or glazier		1 to 2 days; glass is made to measure, so allow about 2 to 3 weeks	Outlet positions fixed before a glass splashback is measured
11	Plumbing fit-off	Plumber		About a day	The sink sealed 24 hours before it is connected
12	Electrical fit-off	Electrician	Visit 3: outlets, switches, lights, oven, hob and rangehood power, then test, liven and certify, in one visit	Electrician 4 to 8 hours	Appliances on site; benchtop and splashback in
13	Handover	All trades	Snag list. The electrician's combined certificate of compliance and electrical safety certificate follows with the invoice, usually 24 to 72 hours after final connection	1 to 2 days	Your snag list

How long you are without a kitchen

In The Conduction Company's experience you are usually without a working kitchen for 2 to 3 weeks, and up to a month for a big kitchen with many trades. A tight team on a tight schedule can do it in a couple of weeks. The cabinets are made before any of this starts, so order them early.

Where kitchen companies do it differently

The Conduction Company's order is the one above. Some kitchen companies order three stages differently, and both ways work:

- **Flooring.** The Conduction Company prefers it before the cabinets, protected while the rest goes in, because it runs under the cabinets and looks better. After the cabinets is fine too: it is cut to the cabinetry and tucks under the kickboards.
- **Painting.** The Conduction Company's order paints after the pre-wire and before the cabinets. Some installers paint last.
- **Splashback.** The Conduction Company fits off after the splashback, so the outlets on that wall go on once and line up. If the fit-off comes first, the electrician has to come back for those outlets.

Five things to get right

1. **Call the electrician at the planning stage**, not after the walls are closed. The Conduction Company can suggest where outlets, lighting and appliances should go while the plan can still change.
2. **Choose the appliances first**. They decide the cabinet cut-outs and the cables the pre-wire puts in.
3. **Write the schedule down before the first trade arrives**, and keep every trade in one group chat. In The Conduction Company's experience, trades arriving in the wrong order is the most common reason an owner-managed kitchen runs weeks over.
4. **Book the electrician about two weeks ahead**. That is The Conduction Company's standard lead time.
5. **Leave the wiring to a licensed electrician**. The Conduction Company does not connect, test or sign off wiring a homeowner has run.

Electrician times are from The Conduction Company's own kitchen jobs. Times for other trades are typical ranges from NZ kitchen and renovation companies' published guides. Every kitchen is different: your kitchen company and trades confirm the real dates.