

NEW BRUNSWICK RENOVATIONS

Kitchen Renovation

Kitchen renovation planning, cabinetry, countertops, layout changes, appliances, and full gut kitchen remodels for NB homes

18 Expert Answers from Reno IQ

newbrunswickrenovations.com/construction-brain

Table of Contents

1. What is better for a NB kitchen renovation, stock or custom cabinets?
2. How much does a full kitchen renovation cost in New Brunswick in 2026?
3. What are the most popular kitchen countertop materials in New Brunswick?
4. How long does a typical kitchen renovation take in New Brunswick?
5. What is the best kitchen layout for older New Brunswick homes with small kitchens?
6. Do I need a permit for a kitchen renovation in Fredericton NB?
7. How much does it cost to install quartz countertops in a New Brunswick kitchen?
8. What are the most durable kitchen flooring options for New Brunswick homes?
9. Can I move plumbing during a kitchen renovation in New Brunswick and what does it cost?
10. What is the average cost of new kitchen cabinets in Saint John NB in 2026?
11. Should I choose hardwood or tile for my kitchen floor in a New Brunswick home?
12. How much does it cost to add a kitchen island during a renovation in NB?
13. What kitchen renovation upgrades add the most resale value in New Brunswick?
14. Is an open concept kitchen renovation worth it in an older New Brunswick home?
15. How much should I expect to pay for kitchen backsplash installation in Moncton?
16. What are the pros and cons of butcher block countertops in a humid New Brunswick kitchen?
17. Can I DIY a kitchen renovation in New Brunswick or should I hire a contractor?
18. What is the cost difference between a budget and high-end kitchen renovation in NB?

What is better for a NB kitchen renovation, stock or custom cabinets?

For most New Brunswick kitchen renovations, **stock cabinets offer the best value and practicality**, costing \$150-\$350 per linear foot versus \$500-\$1,200 for custom cabinets. Stock cabinets from quality manufacturers provide excellent durability and style options while keeping your kitchen renovation budget reasonable in NB's cost-conscious market.

Stock cabinets are pre-manufactured in standard sizes and configurations, available through home centers and kitchen dealers across NB. Modern stock lines offer impressive variety — dozens of door styles, multiple wood species, and various finishes. Quality has improved dramatically over the past decade, with soft-close hinges, full-extension drawers, and solid wood face frames now standard on mid-range stock lines. For a typical NB kitchen requiring 20-25 linear feet of cabinets, stock cabinets run \$3,000-\$8,750 before installation, making them accessible for most renovation budgets.

The main limitation of stock cabinets is sizing flexibility. They come in 3-inch increments (12", 15", 18", etc.), which sometimes creates gaps that need filler strips. In older NB homes with non-standard dimensions or sloped floors, this can be challenging. However, experienced kitchen installers work with these limitations daily and can create beautiful, functional kitchens using stock components.

Custom cabinets are built specifically for your kitchen's exact dimensions and your specific needs. This eliminates filler strips, maximizes storage efficiency, and allows for unique features like specialized storage solutions, unusual configurations, or matching existing woodwork in heritage NB homes. Custom work also offers unlimited finish options and can incorporate higher-end features like soft-close everything, interior organizers, and premium hardware.

However, custom cabinets cost 2-4 times more than comparable stock cabinets and require 8-12 weeks lead time versus 2-4 weeks for stock. In NB's renovation market, this price difference often means choosing between custom cabinets and other important upgrades like quality countertops, better appliances, or proper ventilation.

Semi-custom cabinets split the difference, offering stock cabinet pricing with some customization options like different depths, heights, and specialized storage features. Many NB kitchen renovations find this the sweet spot — better than basic stock but not custom pricing.

New Brunswick's climate considerations favor quality construction over fancy features. NB's 30-50% annual humidity swings cause cabinet doors to expand and contract significantly. Look for cabinets with solid wood face frames, quality hinges that can be adjusted seasonally, and finishes that handle humidity changes. Avoid particleboard boxes in favor of plywood construction, especially for sink base cabinets where moisture exposure is

highest.

For most NB kitchen renovations, invest in **quality stock cabinets** from reputable manufacturers like KraftMaid, Merillat, or Wellborn, then spend the savings on quartz countertops (\$60-\$120/sq ft), quality appliances, and proper under-cabinet lighting. This approach delivers better overall kitchen performance and value than expensive custom cabinets with laminate countertops.

Choose custom cabinets only if you have specific storage needs that stock can't meet, unusual dimensions that create significant waste with stock sizing, or a heritage home where matching existing millwork is important. For most NB homeowners, quality stock cabinets professionally installed provide excellent durability and style at a fraction of custom pricing.

Need help finding an experienced kitchen renovation contractor in your area? New Brunswick Renovations can connect you with local professionals who work with both stock and custom cabinet options.

Looking for experienced contractors? The New Brunswick Construction Network connects homeowners with qualified professionals:

- [Thirty Four Renovations](#)
- [Gionetterenovations](#)

[View all contractors ?](#)

Q2

How much does a full kitchen renovation cost in New Brunswick in 2026?

A full kitchen renovation in New Brunswick costs anywhere from **\$15,000 for a cosmetic refresh to \$100,000+ for a complete gut renovation**, with most mid-range projects landing between \$25,000 and \$50,000 in 2026. The wide range reflects the enormous difference in scope — there is a world of difference between painting cabinets and replacing a countertop versus tearing everything out, moving walls, and starting fresh with custom cabinetry.

For a cosmetic kitchen refresh — painting existing cabinets, replacing hardware, installing a new countertop, and adding a tile backsplash — expect to spend **\$15,000–\$25,000** in the NB market. This approach makes the most sense if your cabinet boxes are structurally sound and your layout already works for how you cook. A mid-range kitchen renovation, which typically means new semi-custom cabinets, a quartz countertop, new flooring, updated

lighting, a new sink and faucet, and modern appliances, runs **\$25,000–\$50,000** for most NB kitchens. This is the most popular renovation tier in Moncton, Fredericton, and Saint John right now. If you are doing a full gut renovation — removing everything down to the studs, relocating plumbing or electrical, potentially opening walls or moving doorways, and finishing with high-end cabinetry and premium appliances — budget **\$50,000–\$100,000+**.

Labour is typically the largest cost in any kitchen renovation, often representing 40–50% of the total budget. NB labour rates are roughly 10–20% below Toronto and Vancouver, which is meaningful on a \$60,000 project. However, materials — quartz, tile, cabinets, appliances — are priced close to the national average since most products are shipped into the province. This means your per-square-foot costs in NB are genuinely lower than in major Canadian cities, but do not expect dramatic savings on the products themselves.

Where Kitchen Budgets Get Stretched

Hidden conditions are the biggest budget wildcard in NB's older housing stock. Many homes in Saint John, Fredericton, and throughout the province were built in the 1950s through 1980s with knob-and-tube or early aluminum wiring, cast iron drain stacks, or asbestos in floor tiles and ceiling texture. Opening walls for a layout change in a 1960s NB home can reveal conditions that add \$5,000–\$15,000 to the project before the new cabinets even arrive. **Plan a contingency of 15–20% on top of your base budget for any renovation involving structural changes or older plumbing and electrical.**

Appliances are often underestimated. A mid-range appliance package — refrigerator, range, dishwasher, and over-the-range microwave — adds \$5,000–\$12,000 to your project. Premium appliance packages from brands like Bosch, KitchenAid, or Miele run \$15,000–\$30,000+. If your renovation budget is tight, buying appliances separately during Boxing Day or Black Friday sales can save 20–30%.

NB's humidity swings — from dry winter forced-air heat down to 20–30% humidity, up to 60–70% Maritime summer humidity — affect every material choice in your kitchen. Solid hardwood flooring in a NB kitchen will gap noticeably in winter and swell slightly in summer. This is one reason luxury vinyl plank (LVP) and porcelain tile have become the dominant kitchen flooring choices in the province. Similarly, painted cabinet finishes can show stress cracks at joints if the space sees significant humidity swings without proper ventilation.

Always get at least three quotes from local renovation contractors, and make sure every quote covers the same detailed scope. A \$28,000 quote and a \$44,000 quote for the same kitchen often reflect very different material specifications, permit inclusions, and contingency approaches — not simply contractor greed or price gouging. For detailed kitchen renovation guidance, check out New Brunswick Kitchens at newbrunswickkitchens.com.

Need help finding experienced renovation professionals in your area? New Brunswick Renovations can connect you with local contractors for a free estimate on your project.

Looking for experienced contractors? The New Brunswick Construction Network connects homeowners with qualified professionals:

- Gionetterenovations
- Thirty Four Renovations

[View all contractors ?](#)

Q3

What are the most popular kitchen countertop materials in New Brunswick?

Quartz is the most popular kitchen countertop material in New Brunswick right now, followed by granite, butcher block, and laminate — each serving a different budget and lifestyle need. The right choice depends on your budget, how hard you cook, and how your kitchen handles NB's humidity swings throughout the year.

Quartz has dominated the NB market for the past several years and for good reason. Engineered quartz (brands like Silestone, Cambria, and Caesarstone) is non-porous, stain-resistant, and requires zero sealing — a meaningful advantage in a province where kitchens see heavy use. In the NB market, quartz countertops run **\$60–\$120 per square foot installed**, depending on the slab grade, edge profile, and complexity of the layout. A typical NB kitchen with 40–50 square feet of countertop lands between \$2,400 and \$6,000 for quartz installed. The consistency of engineered stone also means fewer surprises with veining patterns than natural stone.

Granite is still widely chosen by NB homeowners who want the prestige and uniqueness of natural stone. Granite is highly heat-resistant and extremely hard, which are real advantages in a working kitchen. The trade-off is that granite is porous and requires sealing once or twice a year to prevent staining, and each slab is unique — which can be a challenge if you need to match an existing piece later. Installed granite in NB typically runs **\$55–\$110 per square foot**, placing it in a similar price bracket to mid-grade quartz.

For budget-conscious renovations, **laminite countertops** have had a genuine renaissance. Modern high-pressure laminate from manufacturers like Wilsonart and Formica includes incredibly realistic stone and wood-grain patterns, and performs well in a family kitchen. Installed laminate runs **\$25–\$50 per square foot** in NB, making it the most affordable hard surface option. The main limitation remains the visible seams at corners and the vulnerability of the exposed edge to moisture damage — a particular concern in NB's humid summers.

Butcher block — solid maple or oak countertops — is popular in farmhouse-style NB kitchens and costs **\$35–\$70 per square foot installed**. The important caveat for NB homeowners is moisture management. NB's 30–50%

annual humidity swing causes solid wood to expand and contract noticeably. Butcher block requires periodic oiling, careful management of standing water, and is best used on islands or peninsulas rather than directly around sinks where constant moisture exposure accelerates deterioration.

A newer option gaining traction is **porcelain slab countertops** — large-format porcelain panels that mimic marble or concrete at **\$70–\$130 per square foot installed**. Porcelain is completely impervious to moisture, UV-stable for outdoor kitchens, and extremely scratch-resistant. The limitation is brittleness — large unsupported spans can crack under impact, and repair is difficult since the panel typically needs replacement rather than spot-fixing.

Concrete countertops appeal to design-forward NB homeowners seeking a completely custom look. Poured-in-place or precast concrete runs **\$85–\$150+ per square foot** in NB and requires sealing and periodic maintenance. In NB's humidity environment, concrete can develop hairline cracks over time as the substrate moves seasonally — proper substrate prep and flexible sealers are essential.

When choosing a countertop for your NB kitchen, consider the full picture: how the material handles humidity changes, whether it requires ongoing maintenance, how it connects at the sink and backsplash, and how it will look in ten years rather than just on installation day. For most NB homeowners doing a mid-range renovation, **quartz at \$60–\$90 per square foot installed** hits the best balance of performance, aesthetics, and long-term value. Always ask your contractor to show you full slabs rather than small samples — patterns look very different at scale.

Looking for experienced contractors? The New Brunswick Construction Network connects homeowners with qualified professionals:

- [Thirty Four Renovations](#)
- [Gionetterenovations](#)

[View all contractors ?](#)

How long does a typical kitchen renovation take in New Brunswick?

A typical mid-range kitchen renovation in New Brunswick takes 4–8 weeks from the first day of demolition to final walkthrough, though the planning and lead time before work begins often adds another 6–16 weeks. The total timeline from the day you decide to renovate to the day you cook your first meal in the finished kitchen is commonly 4–6 months when you factor in contractor scheduling, cabinet lead times, and permit processing.

The planning phase is where most of the calendar disappears. Getting 3+ quotes, finalizing your design, choosing cabinets and countertops, ordering materials, and receiving permit approval all takes time — and in a market where good renovation contractors are busy, you may wait 8–16 weeks just to get your project on a contractor's schedule. Cabinet lead times are one of the biggest scheduling variables right now. Stock cabinets from suppliers like IKEA or local cabinet dealers can be available in 1–3 weeks. Semi-custom cabinets from Canadian suppliers typically run 6–10 weeks. Custom cabinetry from a local NB millwork shop can take 10–16 weeks. Knowing your cabinet lead time determines almost everything else about your project schedule.

Once work begins, the typical sequence for a NB kitchen renovation runs roughly like this: **Week 1** covers demolition, removal of old cabinets, flooring, and any walls coming down. **Weeks 2–3** handle rough-in work — any structural changes, electrical rough-in for new circuits and the panel upgrade if needed, plumbing rough-in for relocated sink or added fixtures, and HVAC modifications. This rough-in phase is also when TSANB inspections happen for electrical and plumbing work, which typically takes 2–5 business days to schedule. **Weeks 3–4** bring cabinet installation, which is often the most satisfying week of the project. **Week 4–5** involves countertop templating and fabrication — after cabinets are installed and level, the countertop fabricator templates the exact dimensions. Quartz and granite fabrication then takes 1–2 weeks. **Week 5–6** sees countertop installation, backsplash tile work, flooring installation if not done in demo week, fixture connections, and appliance installation. **Week 7–8** is for trim, touch-ups, cabinet hardware, lighting fixture installation, and final electrical and plumbing connections.

The biggest timeline killers in NB kitchen renovations are hidden discoveries during demo and scheduling delays at the rough-in phase. Opening walls in a 1960s or 1970s Fredericton or Saint John home may reveal knob-and-tube wiring that must be remediated before the renovation can proceed, or cast iron drain stack issues that add days of plumbing work. Asbestos in floor tiles or ceiling texture — common in NB homes built before 1980 — requires professional abatement that adds 1–2 weeks and \$2,000–\$6,000 to the project before your contractor can even begin demolition.

NB's seasons can also affect timing indirectly. If your renovation involves any structural work opening exterior walls — removing a window to add a pass-through, for example — scheduling that work during NB's shoulder seasons (October–April) means cold and moisture management become active concerns. Interior kitchen renovations

proceed year-round without issue, but material deliveries in deep winter require that products are conditioned to room temperature before installation, particularly for flooring and cabinet materials.

Build buffer into your timeline from day one. If your contractor estimates 6 weeks, communicate with your family about planning for 8 weeks without a functional kitchen. A temporary kitchen setup — a folding table with a microwave, toaster oven, and kettle in another room — makes the disruption far more manageable. Most NB homeowners find the 4–8 week renovation window manageable with a bit of pre-planning, and the result is worth every week of the process.

Looking for experienced contractors? The New Brunswick Construction Network connects homeowners with qualified professionals:

- [Thirty Four Renovations](#)
- [Gionetterenovations](#)

[View all contractors ?](#)

Q5

What is the best kitchen layout for older New Brunswick homes with small kitchens?

The galley layout and the L-shape layout are the two most effective configurations for the small, compartmentalized kitchens common in older New Brunswick homes — and opening a wall to borrow space from an adjacent dining room is often the single most transformative move you can make in a pre-1980 NB home.

Older NB homes — particularly those built from the 1920s through the 1960s in Saint John, Fredericton, Moncton, and across the province's rural communities — were designed with closed, dedicated cooking rooms. Kitchens in these homes are often 80–120 square feet with doorways on multiple walls, leaving very little contiguous wall space for cabinets. The floor plan reflected an era when kitchens were working rooms kept separate from living spaces, not the open-concept heart of the home that today's buyers expect.

In a true galley kitchen — where cabinetry runs along two parallel walls — the goal is maximizing every inch of storage and counter space while maintaining a clear work path down the centre. The classic kitchen work triangle (refrigerator, sink, range) flows naturally in a galley layout. For a narrow NB galley kitchen, **keep the aisle at least 42 inches wide** for single-cook use, or 48 inches if two people regularly cook together. Raising upper cabinets to the full ceiling height (using the space above with glass-front display cabinets or closed storage) dramatically

increases storage without touching the footprint. A well-designed galley in a 10×12 foot kitchen can be more functional than a poorly designed open kitchen three times the size.

The L-shape layout works beautifully when one or two walls of cabinet run can be established without interruption. In NB homes where the kitchen corner is unobstructed, an L-shape opens the room and allows for a small island or peninsula if the square footage permits — even a 24-inch-deep peninsula along one side adds meaningful counter space and storage without major structural work.

Opening Walls to Expand Your Kitchen

The most impactful change in most small NB kitchen renovations is removing or partially opening the wall between the kitchen and the adjacent dining room or living room. This single move — which in many NB homes involves removing a non-load-bearing wall and adding a flush header — transforms a cramped 100 square foot kitchen into a connected 200+ square foot kitchen-dining space that feels entirely different. The cost for wall removal, structural assessment, header installation, drywall repair, and finishing typically runs **\$5,000–\$15,000** depending on whether the wall is load-bearing and the extent of the finish work.

Before removing any wall in an older NB home, a structural assessment is essential. Many walls in homes built before 1970 are load-bearing even when they appear decorative, and some older NB homes have unconventional framing from multiple renovation generations. A qualified general contractor or structural engineer can assess whether a wall can safely be removed, what header size is required, and whether any temporary shoring is needed during the work. Never skip this step — an undersized header above a load-bearing opening is a structural failure waiting to happen.

For storage in small kitchens, **vertical thinking beats horizontal every time**. Cabinets running floor-to-ceiling, pull-out pantry towers in 9-inch gaps beside the refrigerator, drawer organizers that replace a cabinet full of shifting clutter, and overhead pot racks above an island are all strategies that maximize a small footprint without touching the walls. In NB homes with 8-foot ceilings — very common in post-war construction — there is often 16–18 inches of dead space above standard-height upper cabinets that a full-height cabinet or integrated crown moulding can elegantly capture.

Lighting also has an outsized effect on how spacious a small kitchen feels. Replacing a single ceiling fixture with recessed lighting on a dimmer switch, adding under-cabinet LED strips that illuminate the countertop work surface, and choosing a light-reflective backsplash tile (subway tile in white or light grey is perennially popular in NB renovations) all make a compact kitchen feel larger and more functional. For detailed planning guidance on NB kitchen renovations, New Brunswick Kitchens at newbrunswickkitchens.com is a helpful resource.

Looking for experienced contractors? The New Brunswick Construction Network connects homeowners with qualified professionals:

- Gionetterenovations
- Thirty Four Renovations

[View all contractors ?](#)

Q6

Do I need a permit for a kitchen renovation in Fredericton NB?

Whether you need a permit for your Fredericton kitchen renovation depends entirely on what work is being done — cosmetic updates like new cabinets, countertops, and flooring do not require a permit, but any structural changes, new electrical circuits, relocated plumbing, or gas appliance work does.

In Fredericton, the **City of Fredericton Building Inspection Department** handles building permit applications for structural work. For trade work — electrical, plumbing, and gas — permits and inspections fall under the **Technical Safety Authority of New Brunswick (TSANB)**, which operates province-wide. These are two separate permit streams that often run in parallel during a kitchen renovation.

Here is a practical breakdown of what typically triggers a permit in a Fredericton kitchen renovation. You **do not** need a permit for painting cabinets, installing new doors and hardware on existing cabinet boxes, replacing countertops, installing new flooring (any type), adding a tile backsplash, swapping existing light fixtures on existing circuits (like replacing an old fluorescent fixture with pot lights on an existing dedicated circuit), or replacing faucets and a sink on existing plumbing connections. These are cosmetic renovations that do not alter structure, plumbing rough-in, or electrical systems.

You **do** need permits for removing or altering a load-bearing wall (building permit from the City of Fredericton), adding new electrical circuits to accommodate a new range hood, additional counter receptacles, or a new dishwasher on a dedicated circuit (TSANB electrical permit), relocating the sink or adding new plumbing rough-in for a dishwasher or second sink (TSANB plumbing permit), upgrading the electrical panel if your kitchen renovation reveals that the existing panel is at capacity (TSANB electrical permit), installing or relocating a gas range or gas line (TSANB gas permit — gas fitters only), and any addition to the building footprint.

Pot lights are a common permit confusion point. If you are simply replacing an existing surface-mounted fixture with pot lights on the same circuit — a simple swap with no new wiring run to the panel — many contractors treat this as a fixture replacement without a separate permit. However, if the work involves running new circuits or adding

dedicated kitchen counter receptacles (required by the NB Electrical Code for kitchen renovations), a TSANB electrical permit is required and inspection must be passed before the walls are closed.

The honest advice on permits is this: the cost of permits for a typical mid-range Fredericton kitchen renovation is usually **\$150–\$400 total**, which is a trivial expense relative to the project cost. The cost of skipping permits when they were required can be significant — insurance claim denial if there is a fire or flood in the renovated space, required tear-out and re-inspection when discovered during a future sale, and potential liability if a TSANB inspection would have caught a faulty electrical connection. The risk-reward calculation always favours pulling the proper permits.

When you hire a reputable Fredericton renovation contractor, permit management is typically included as part of their service — they apply for the permits in their name as the contractor of record, manage the inspection schedule, and ensure inspections are passed before proceeding to the next phase. Always confirm that permit responsibilities are explicitly spelled out in your renovation contract, and ask your contractor to share copies of all approved permits and inspection sign-offs at project completion. These documents become part of your home's improvement history and matter at resale. Need help finding experienced renovation professionals in the Fredericton area? New Brunswick Renovations can connect you with local contractors for your kitchen project.

Looking for experienced contractors? The New Brunswick Construction Network connects homeowners with qualified professionals:

- [Gionetterenovations](#)
- [Thirty Four Renovations](#)

[View all contractors ?](#)

How much does it cost to install quartz countertops in a New Brunswick kitchen?

Quartz countertop installation in a New Brunswick kitchen costs \$60–\$120 per square foot installed, with most NB kitchens landing between \$2,400 and \$6,000 for a typical 40–50 square foot layout. The final number depends on the quartz grade you choose, the complexity of your layout, the edge profile, and whether you need cutouts for undermount sinks or cooktop openings.

Let's break down what drives the price within that range. Entry-level quartz slabs — standard colours in solid whites, greys, and basic stone patterns — from brands like MSI or Silestone's value lines run at the lower end of the range, typically **\$60–\$80 per square foot installed**. Mid-grade quartz with more complex veining, book-matched patterns, or from brands like Cambria and Caesarstone runs **\$80–\$100 per square foot**. Premium designer quartz — Calacatta-style marble-look slabs, dramatic veining patterns, or thick 3 cm slabs with waterfall edges — can reach **\$100–\$130+ per square foot** installed in the NB market.

Edge profiles add cost beyond the basic eased or beveled edge. A simple eased edge is typically included in the installed price. Ogee, dupont, waterfall, or custom profiles add **\$15–\$30 per linear foot** to the total. For a kitchen with 20 linear feet of exposed edge (a common NB kitchen layout), a premium edge profile adds \$300–\$600 to your countertop cost — often worth it for a show-stopping peninsula or island.

Each cutout — for an undermount sink, a cooktop, or a soap dispenser — adds **\$150–\$300 per cutout** to the fabrication cost. A typical NB kitchen with one undermount sink opening might add \$150–\$250. A more complex layout with a cooktop cutout plus a sink cutout adds \$300–\$600 in cutout charges alone.

The NB-Specific Advantage of Quartz

For New Brunswick homeowners, quartz has a particularly strong case over natural stone. NB's humidity swings — from 20–30% relative humidity in winter with forced-air heat to 60–70% in Maritime summer — can affect the sealant on granite countertops, meaning granite in an NB kitchen genuinely does need sealing every 1–2 years to maintain stain resistance. Quartz is non-porous by nature and requires no sealing at any point in its life. In a busy NB kitchen dealing with the realities of four-season cooking, this low-maintenance characteristic is meaningful.

The installation process matters as much as the material. After cabinet installation is complete and level, the countertop fabricator templates your exact kitchen dimensions — a process that takes 1–2 hours. Fabrication from templating typically takes **1–2 weeks** for quartz. Installation day is usually 3–5 hours for a standard kitchen layout. This 1–2 week window between cabinet installation and countertop installation is when your plumber connects the rough-in for the undermount sink (which must be done after countertop installation in most configurations).

Get quotes from at least two or three countertop fabricators in NB — both local stone shops and bigger suppliers serve the province. Ask to see your specific slab (not a small sample) before committing, because the veining pattern in a Calacatta-style quartz varies significantly slab to slab. Some NB fabricators offer a package price that includes the slab, fabrication, cutouts, standard edge, and installation — these all-inclusive quotes are easier to compare accurately than itemized quotes where labour and template fees are listed separately.

For a complete kitchen renovation including quartz countertops along with new cabinets, flooring, and finishes, budgeting **\$35,000–\$55,000** for a mid-range NB kitchen is realistic. Your countertop is typically 10–15% of the total renovation budget — a significant investment, but one that dramatically affects the kitchen's look and long-term performance.

Looking for experienced contractors? The New Brunswick Construction Network connects homeowners with qualified professionals:

- [Thirty Four Renovations](#)
- [Gionetterenovations](#)

[View all contractors ?](#)

Q8

What are the most durable kitchen flooring options for New Brunswick homes?

Porcelain tile and luxury vinyl plank (LVP) are the most durable kitchen flooring options for New Brunswick homes, with each offering distinct advantages depending on your budget, comfort preferences, and how much moisture and traffic your kitchen sees. Both handle NB's humidity swings and heavy family use far better than hardwood or laminate in a kitchen environment.

Luxury vinyl plank has become the dominant kitchen flooring choice across NB over the past several years, and the reasons are straightforward. Quality LVP (look for a wear layer of 12 mil or thicker for kitchen use) is 100% waterproof, dimensionally stable through NB's 30–50% annual humidity swings, comfortable underfoot compared to tile, warm enough to walk on barefoot in winter, and available in highly realistic wood and stone looks. Installed LVP in NB typically runs **\$5–\$10 per square foot** for the product and installation combined, depending on the quality tier. A standard 150 sq ft kitchen floor runs \$750–\$1,500 installed — one of the most cost-effective renovation investments available. The key quality indicator is the wear layer thickness: a 12 mil wear layer handles moderate family traffic, while a 20 mil wear layer is appropriate for high-traffic kitchens or homes with large dogs.

Porcelain tile is the most durable option outright. A properly installed porcelain tile floor on a sound subfloor will outlast the home's other finishes — 30 to 50 years of service life is realistic. Porcelain is impervious to moisture, scratch-resistant, and easy to clean. Large-format tiles (24×24 inch or larger) are popular in NB kitchens right now because fewer grout lines mean easier cleaning and a more streamlined look. Installed porcelain tile in NB runs **\$8–\$18 per square foot** depending on tile cost and installation complexity. The trade-offs are comfort (cold and hard underfoot — a genuine issue in NB's long winters) and the fact that grout lines require periodic sealing and are harder to keep clean than the tile surface itself. Heated floor systems under tile are an option worth considering in NB kitchens — electric mat systems add \$800–\$2,000 for a kitchen-sized area and transform the winter experience of a tile floor.

Hardwood flooring in a kitchen carries real risks in NB's climate. The 30–50% humidity swing causes solid hardwood to noticeably gap between planks in dry winter months and swell in humid summers. Directly adjacent to the sink and dishwasher, seasonal spills and splash accelerate deterioration. If you want the warmth of wood in your NB kitchen, **engineered hardwood** (a real wood veneer over a dimensionally stable plywood core) is significantly more stable than solid hardwood, though still not as moisture-resistant as LVP or tile. Installed engineered hardwood runs **\$8–\$16 per square foot** in NB. For detailed flooring guidance beyond the kitchen, New Brunswick Flooring at newbrunswickflooring.com covers all flooring types in depth.

Laminate flooring is frequently considered but is a poor choice for most NB kitchens. Standard laminate has a wood-fibre core that swells on contact with water — an inevitable reality around any kitchen sink or dishwasher. Waterproof laminate products have improved, but for similar money you can get LVP that is genuinely 100% waterproof throughout its thickness, not just at the surface layer. Save laminate for bedrooms and living areas.

For the **subfloor**, proper preparation before any kitchen flooring installation is non-negotiable. Squeaky, soft, or uneven subfloors must be addressed before new flooring goes down — tile cracking over a weak subfloor point and LVP clicking hollow over a low spot are both predictable failures. Adding a layer of 3/8-inch plywood over an existing subfloor to stiffen it before tile installation adds \$1–\$2 per square foot but prevents tile cracking failures that are expensive to repair. When hiring a flooring installer, ask specifically how they handle subfloor prep — a contractor who does not mention it is a contractor who will skip it.

Looking for experienced contractors? The New Brunswick Construction Network connects homeowners with qualified professionals:

- [Thirty Four Renovations](#)
- [Gionetterenovations](#)

[View all contractors ?](#)

Can I move plumbing during a kitchen renovation in New Brunswick and what does it cost?

Yes, you can absolutely move plumbing during a kitchen renovation in New Brunswick — it is a routine part of kitchen layout changes — but it requires a licensed plumber, a TSANB plumbing permit, and a TSANB inspection before the walls or floor are closed. The cost to relocate a kitchen sink typically runs **\$1,500–\$4,000** for a straightforward move within the same wall, or **\$3,500–\$7,000+** for moves across the kitchen to an island, peninsula, or entirely different wall.

The cost range is wide because it reflects how far and how complex the move is. Moving a sink 12 inches along the same wall — to better centre it under a new window, for example — may require only minor drain slope adjustment and a short supply line extension, adding \$1,500–\$2,500 to the project. Moving the sink from an exterior wall to a kitchen island in the centre of the room is a fundamentally different operation: the drain must run under the subfloor (or through a basement ceiling if accessible below), maintaining the required 1/4-inch-per-foot slope to the stack, and supply lines must be extended and properly insulated against NB's cold winters if they run through an unheated space. This type of move runs \$3,500–\$7,000+ depending on the home's construction and the below-floor accessibility.

For NB homes with an accessible basement below the kitchen — which covers most detached and semi-detached homes in Fredericton, Moncton, Saint John, and throughout the province — plumbing relocations are significantly easier and less expensive than in homes built on a slab or with a crawlspace. A plumber can access the drain stack from below, cut in a new connection, and run the new drain line without demolishing the kitchen subfloor. In a slab-on-grade kitchen, moving the drain requires cutting through concrete — which adds \$500–\$2,000 in concrete cutting and repair costs on top of the plumbing work itself.

The drain slope is the critical technical constraint in any plumbing relocation. Kitchen drains must maintain a 1/4-inch drop per foot of horizontal run to drain properly without clogs. The further you move the drain from the stack, the more drop you need — which is finite. An island sink on the opposite side of the kitchen from the main stack may need a 6-inch drop over a 24-foot run, which means the drain line eats significantly into your basement ceiling height. In homes with low basement ceilings (a common reality in older NB construction), this can require creative routing or even an under-sink pump system — an additional \$500–\$1,500 expense.

Supply lines (hot and cold water) are the easier part of any plumbing move. Copper or PEX supply lines can be extended or rerouted through walls and floors with relative ease. In NB, PEX tubing has become the dominant supply-line material for renovations because it is flexible, frost-resistant (an important consideration for any NB exterior wall run), and fast to install. Any supply line running through an exterior wall or unheated space in an NB

home needs proper insulation — frozen kitchen supply lines in a Saint John or Edmundston winter are a genuine risk in inadequately insulated exterior wall runs.

A TSANB plumbing permit is required for any drain relocation, new rough-in, or supply-line modification beyond simple fixture swaps. Your plumber applies for the permit and manages the inspection. The inspection must happen before walls or floors are closed — a rough-in inspection verifies proper slope, connection to stack, and supply line installation before the work is hidden. Budget the permit fee into your project: TSANB plumbing permits typically run \$100–\$300 depending on scope.

Always hire a licensed NB plumber for kitchen plumbing work — unlicensed plumbing work will not pass TSANB inspection, voids your home insurance for water damage claims in the renovated space, and creates headaches at resale when the absence of permits surfaces in a home inspection.

Looking for experienced contractors? The New Brunswick Construction Network connects homeowners with qualified professionals:

- [Gionetterenovations](#)
- [Thirty Four Renovations](#)

[View all contractors ?](#)

What is the average cost of new kitchen cabinets in Saint John NB in 2026?

New kitchen cabinets in Saint John, NB cost **\$150–\$350 per linear foot for stock and builder-grade semi-custom options**, **\$350–\$700 per linear foot for mid-range semi-custom cabinetry**, and **\$700–\$1,200+ per linear foot for custom cabinetry** — with total cabinet costs for a typical Saint John kitchen ranging from \$8,000 to \$40,000+ before installation.

A standard Saint John kitchen with 20–25 linear feet of cabinetry (base cabinets, upper cabinets, and a pantry tower) gives you a useful way to apply those per-linear-foot numbers. At the stock end of the market — flat-pack RTA (ready-to-assemble) cabinets from retailers like IKEA or entry-level cabinet dealers — budget **\$5,000–\$10,000 for the cabinets themselves**, plus \$2,000–\$4,000 for professional installation. Stock cabinets come in fixed sizes (typically in 3-inch increments) and may require filler strips to fit your specific kitchen dimensions, but for a budget-conscious renovation they deliver solid functional value.

Mid-range semi-custom cabinetry — from Canadian suppliers like Aristokraft, Medallion, or regional Saint John-area cabinet dealers — offers more size flexibility, better plywood construction over particleboard, soft-close hinges and drawer glides, and a wider selection of door styles and finishes. For a typical Saint John kitchen at this tier, budget **\$14,000–\$22,000 for cabinetry** plus \$3,000–\$5,000 for installation. This is the most popular kitchen cabinet tier in Saint John right now, hitting a genuine quality-to-value balance that holds up well in NB's humid climate.

Full custom cabinetry from a local Saint John millwork shop or high-end cabinet manufacturer means cabinets built to your exact dimensions, with wood species, finish, door profile, and interior fittings all selected to specification. Quality custom cabinetry for a Saint John kitchen runs **\$25,000–\$40,000+ for the cabinets alone**, with installation adding another \$4,000–\$8,000. Custom is the right choice when your kitchen has non-standard dimensions, when you want floor-to-ceiling integrated storage, or when you are doing a high-end whole-home renovation where the kitchen needs to anchor the investment.

Installation cost is always a separate line item from the cabinet cost itself. Cabinet installation in Saint John typically runs **\$75–\$150 per linear foot** or \$3,000–\$8,000 for a full kitchen, depending on the complexity of the layout and the number of specialty cabinets (corner lazy Susans, pull-out pantry towers, integrated appliance panels). Some cabinet suppliers include installation in a package price — always clarify whether you are looking at a supply-only or supply-and-install quote before comparing numbers.

For Saint John homeowners, **humidity management** should influence cabinet material choices. Saint John is one of the foggiest and most humid cities in Canada, and kitchens in older Saint John homes (the city has a large inventory of pre-1970 housing) can see significant moisture exposure. Plywood box construction is meaningfully more moisture-resistant than particleboard — plywood tolerates incidental moisture without delaminating, while

particleboard swells permanently. Spending a bit more to specify plywood boxes on your cabinetry order is a worthwhile upgrade for any Saint John kitchen.

Door finishes matter in NB's climate too. Thermofoil (vinyl-wrapped) door fronts can peel at the edges in kitchens with heat fluctuations near the range or significant steam exposure — a risk in any busy NB kitchen. Painted MDF or solid wood door fronts are more durable in variable conditions. If you are choosing a white painted kitchen (by far the most popular finish in Saint John right now), specify a quality painted MDF or solid wood door rather than thermofoil to avoid delamination issues down the road.

Always confirm that cabinet quotes include hardware (hinges, drawer glides), since some quotes are cabinet-only and leave hardware as an added-cost item. Soft-close hinges and drawer glides are standard in mid-range and above — if they are listed as an optional upgrade on a quote, that tells you something about the base quality of the cabinets being offered. For detailed kitchen renovation guidance, visit New Brunswick Kitchens at newbrunswickkitchens.com.

Looking for experienced contractors? The New Brunswick Construction Network connects homeowners with qualified professionals:

- [Gionetterenovations](#)
- [Thirty Four Renovations](#)

[View all contractors ?](#)

Q11

Should I choose hardwood or tile for my kitchen floor in a New Brunswick home?

For most New Brunswick kitchens, porcelain tile is the more practical long-term choice, but engineered hardwood is a legitimate option if you understand NB's humidity conditions and commit to proper maintenance. The right answer depends on your kitchen layout, your home's moisture history, and how you live in the space.

Porcelain tile has a clear advantage in NB kitchens because it's completely unaffected by the province's dramatic humidity swings — that 30-50% seasonal change in indoor relative humidity that causes solid hardwood to gap in winter and cup in summer. Tile doesn't move, doesn't swell, and won't delaminate. It handles spills, dropped items, pet traffic, and heavy foot wear without complaint. Large-format porcelain (24x24 or 12x24) is the current standard

in NB kitchen renovations, with installed costs typically running **\$8-\$14/sq ft** for quality porcelain. Heated in-floor systems pair beautifully with tile and add roughly **\$10-\$15/sq ft** to the project cost — a legitimate luxury upgrade for NB winters.

Solid hardwood in a kitchen is genuinely risky in New Brunswick. The moisture extremes are simply too pronounced. A beautiful solid red oak floor installed in October will shrink noticeably by February in a forced-air-heated NB home, opening gaps between boards. Come July with the Maritime humidity rolling in, those same boards may cup slightly at the edges. Over time, the cumulative movement works finish loose, opens joints, and can cause cupping that requires sanding and refinishing every few years. **Engineered hardwood is a much smarter compromise** — the plywood core resists seasonal movement far better than solid, and quality engineered products can be refinished once or twice over their lifespan. Installed costs for engineered hardwood typically run **\$8-\$14/sq ft**, similar to tile, though premium products go higher.

NB-Specific Considerations

If your NB home has any history of basement moisture or spring snowmelt infiltration — and many do, particularly in Moncton's older neighbourhoods, Saint John's older East Side homes, and properties along the Saint John River valley — tile is the wiser choice regardless of aesthetics. A moisture event that would merely discolour tile will buckle and destroy hardwood flooring. Before installing either material, confirm your subfloor is flat, dry, and structurally sound. NB's older homes (pre-1970 construction) sometimes have subfloor conditions that need addressing before any flooring installation.

Luxury vinyl plank (LVP) is worth a serious look as a third option for NB kitchens. Modern LVP is waterproof, dimensionally stable across humidity swings, comfortable underfoot, realistically priced at **\$5-\$9/sq ft installed**, and available in convincing wood and stone looks. It's become extremely popular in NB kitchen renovations over the past few years for good reason.

From a practical standpoint, if your kitchen is open-concept and flows into a living or dining room where you have or plan hardwood, the visual continuity of running engineered hardwood through the entire open space is a legitimate design choice. Just make sure an HRV or ERV system is managing your indoor humidity, your kitchen has proper ventilation, and you're prepared to address any spills immediately. If the kitchen is a separate room with a door, tile or LVP is the straightforward choice.

For detailed flooring guidance across all NB room types, New Brunswick Flooring at newbrunswickflooring.com covers hardwood, tile, LVP, and laminate in depth for Maritime climate conditions.

Looking for experienced contractors? The New Brunswick Construction Network connects homeowners with qualified professionals:

- Gionetterenovations
- Thirty Four Renovations

[View all contractors ?](#)

Q12

How much does it cost to add a kitchen island during a renovation in NB?

A kitchen island addition in New Brunswick typically costs \$3,000-\$15,000 depending on size, whether it includes plumbing or electrical, and how it's built — a standalone freestanding island is at the low end, while a built-in island with a prep sink, electrical outlets, and seating overhang is at the high end. Getting clear on what you actually want before budgeting is the most important step.

A basic freestanding kitchen island — a standalone cabinet unit with a countertop, purchased as a ready-to-assemble or off-the-shelf unit — runs **\$1,500-\$4,000** including installation in NB. These are a practical option when your kitchen layout doesn't allow for permanent fixture changes, or when you're in a rental or planning to move in a few years. The limitation is that they can't include plumbing and are often less visually polished than built-in options.

A built-in kitchen island framed and finished to match your existing cabinetry is a much more significant project. The cabinetry component alone — whether stock, semi-custom, or fully custom — runs **\$2,000-\$8,000** depending on the size and cabinet quality. Add a quartz countertop (the current standard in NB renovations) at **\$60-\$120/sq ft installed**, and a 4x3 foot island top adds another **\$800-\$2,000**. If your island design includes a seating overhang for bar stools — extremely popular in NB open-concept kitchens — the countertop extends further and costs more, and you need to confirm the cabinets are designed to handle the cantilevered weight.

Electrical and plumbing additions change the budget significantly. Adding one or two electrical outlets to an island requires running new wiring from your panel — typically **\$500-\$1,500** depending on panel location and access. A pendant light fixture or two over the island adds another **\$300-\$800** for wiring and fixtures. Adding a prep sink with hot and cold supply lines and a new drain stub-up through the floor is the biggest cost jump — plan on **\$2,000-\$4,500** for the plumbing rough-in, fixtures, and connections, plus TSANB inspection. All new electrical circuits and plumbing rough-in require permits in NB, so budget **\$150-\$350** for permits on top of the trade costs.

Most NB kitchen islands run between 4 and 6 feet in length and 3 to 4 feet in width, but your specific kitchen dimensions dictate what's possible. The standard clearance requirement between an island and surrounding

cabinets or walls is **42 inches minimum** on all working sides — 48 inches is more comfortable. Many NB older homes have kitchens that are too small for a comfortable island, and it's worth getting an honest assessment of your kitchen dimensions before committing to the idea.

From a renovation planning standpoint, the smartest time to add a kitchen island is during a full kitchen renovation when the floor is already open, electrical is already being run, and the trades are on site. Adding an island as a standalone project later is more disruptive and proportionally more expensive because you're paying mobilization costs for each trade separately.

For detailed kitchen renovation planning guidance, New Brunswick Kitchens at newbrunswickkitchens.com covers island design, layout planning, and full renovation costs. Need help finding a local kitchen renovation contractor for your island project? New Brunswick Renovations can connect you with experienced local professionals for a free estimate.

Looking for experienced contractors? The New Brunswick Construction Network connects homeowners with qualified professionals:

- [Thirty Four Renovations](#)
- [Gionetterenovations](#)

[View all contractors ?](#)

What kitchen renovation upgrades add the most resale value in New Brunswick?

The kitchen upgrades that add the most resale value in New Brunswick are **cabinet fronts and hardware, quality countertops, modern lighting, and updated appliances** — done as a cohesive refresh rather than a partial update that creates a mismatched result. NB buyers respond strongly to kitchens that look complete and updated, not to individual luxury features in an otherwise dated space.

Cabinets are the visual centrepiece of any kitchen, and they're the first thing a buyer notices. If your existing cabinet boxes are in solid structural shape, **painting or refacing the doors and drawer fronts** and replacing hardware is one of the highest-return investments in NB kitchen renovations. A professional cabinet paint job on a standard NB kitchen runs **\$3,000-\$6,000** and dramatically transforms the space without the \$25,000-\$50,000 cost of full cabinet replacement. New hardware — pulls and knobs in brushed nickel, matte black, or brass tones — costs a few hundred dollars but updates the look instantly. If the boxes are damaged, the layout is poor, or the style is truly beyond saving, new semi-custom cabinets at **\$150-\$350 per linear foot** are the right call for a home you're selling in the next two to five years.

Countertops matter enormously to NB buyers in the current market. **Quartz has become the expected standard** in any mid-range or above kitchen, and its absence is noticeable when buyers are comparing properties. At **\$60-\$120/sq ft installed**, quartz countertops on a standard NB kitchen (25-35 sq ft) run **\$1,500-\$4,200** — a highly visible upgrade relative to its cost. Granite remains popular and is equally well-regarded. Laminate countertops in a home priced above entry level will be noted in every showing.

Lighting is consistently underestimated and punches well above its weight for return on investment. Replacing a single fluorescent fixture with **recessed LED pot lights, pendant lights over the island or peninsula, and under-cabinet lighting** costs **\$1,500-\$4,000** for the full electrical and fixture work, but it completely changes how the kitchen photographs and shows. NB buyers have seen too many dark kitchens — a well-lit kitchen feels larger, cleaner, and more valuable.

Appliances are trickier from a pure return-on-investment perspective. Stainless steel appliances are the expected standard in a renovated NB kitchen, and mismatched or visibly dated appliances hurt resale even when everything else is updated. A matched suite of mid-range stainless appliances (refrigerator, stove, dishwasher, over-the-range microwave) runs **\$3,500-\$7,000** — not a renovation project that pays back dollar-for-dollar, but a necessary component of a kitchen that presents well.

The backsplash has become a focal-point design element in NB kitchens. Subway tile, large-format tile, or a statement tile behind the range adds visual interest and is relatively affordable at **\$1,000-\$3,500** professionally installed on a standard kitchen backsplash. It photographs well and is a detail NB buyers notice.

One critical point for NB resale renovations: **cohesion matters more than individual upgrades**. A kitchen with quartz countertops on original 1980s oak cabinets with dated lighting looks disjointed and confuses buyers. A kitchen with painted white cabinets, new hardware, a tile backsplash, and a simple quartz countertop feels complete and current. Plan the refresh as a system, not as individual line items.

For the best return in the NB market, most renovation advisors suggest keeping your kitchen renovation budget at or below 10% of your home's current market value. In Moncton or Fredericton where detached homes average \$300,000-\$400,000, that means a **\$30,000-\$40,000 kitchen budget** is the rational ceiling for resale-motivated renovations. Spending \$80,000 on a kitchen in a \$350,000 home rarely pays back.

Looking for experienced contractors? The New Brunswick Construction Network connects homeowners with qualified professionals:

- Thirty Four Renovations
- Gionetterenovations

[View all contractors ?](#)

Q14

Is an open concept kitchen renovation worth it in an older New Brunswick home?

Opening up an older NB home to create an open-concept kitchen is often worth it for livability and resale, but it comes with real structural complexity and cost that many homeowners underestimate — budget \$15,000-\$40,000 for the structural work alone depending on what walls are involved, and always start with a structural engineer's assessment. Older NB homes, particularly those built before 1960, tend to have load-bearing walls in locations that catch people off guard.

The appeal of open-concept layouts is undeniable. Removing the wall between the kitchen and the living or dining room creates better natural light flow, allows supervision of children and guests while cooking, and makes a modest NB bungalow or two-storey feel significantly larger than its square footage suggests. These benefits are real and NB buyers consistently respond positively to open-concept spaces — in the current Moncton, Fredericton, and Saint John markets, an updated open-concept main floor is a meaningful selling feature.

But the structural reality of older NB homes deserves honest attention. **Every wall you remove that runs perpendicular to your floor joists is potentially load-bearing** — carrying the weight of the floor or roof above.

Removing these walls without proper engineering leads to sagging ceilings, sticking doors, cracked drywall on upper floors, and, in severe cases, structural failure. Before any wall comes down in a pre-1980 NB home, a structural engineer's assessment is essential — this typically costs **\$500-\$1,500** and is money that protects every dollar you spend after it. The engineer will determine whether the wall is load-bearing, what size beam you need to span the opening, and what post or column supports the beam ends.

The beam itself is often where the real cost lies. A load-bearing wall removal requiring a **6 to 10 metre LVL (laminated veneer lumber) beam** runs **\$8,000-\$18,000** including the beam material, installation, temporary support walls during construction, finishing the ceiling flush or exposing the beam intentionally, and patching flooring where the wall stood. Point load columns at each beam end may require reinforcing the foundation below — in NB's older concrete block or rubble stone foundation homes, this is not uncommon and adds **\$3,000-\$8,000** if foundation work is needed.

Electrical, plumbing, and HVAC routing through the affected wall adds another layer of planning. Older NB homes may have knob-and-tube wiring, ungrounded circuits, or outdated panel capacity. A wall removal project that triggers an electrical upgrade adds **\$5,000-\$15,000** depending on the scope of electrical work. TSANB licensed electricians are required for any new wiring, and permits are mandatory for structural changes and electrical work.

The practical answer for most NB homeowners considering this project: **start with the structural engineer, get the scope defined clearly, then get three quotes from renovation contractors with structural experience.** A contractor who wants to proceed without an engineer's assessment on any pre-1970 NB home is a contractor to avoid. The permit process for wall removals in Moncton, Saint John, and Fredericton will typically require the engineering drawings anyway, so you'll need them regardless.

For homes with genuine structural complexity — fieldstone or rubble-stone foundations, timber-frame construction, or significant deferred maintenance — the open-concept renovation may be the right trigger to address the full building envelope and mechanical systems at the same time. A gut renovation that opens the kitchen while upgrading insulation, electrical, and plumbing is more disruptive and expensive in the short term but is the most efficient way to bring an older NB home up to modern performance standards.

For detailed guidance on kitchen renovation planning including open-concept transformations, New Brunswick Kitchens at newbrunswickkitchens.com has in-depth information on the full process.

Looking for experienced contractors? The New Brunswick Construction Network connects homeowners with qualified professionals:

- Gionetterenovations
- Thirty Four Renovations

Q15

How much should I expect to pay for kitchen backsplash installation in Moncton?

Kitchen backsplash installation in Moncton typically runs \$1,000-\$3,500 for a professionally installed standard backsplash, with the range driven by the tile you choose, the linear footage of your backsplash area, and whether any prep work is needed on the substrate. Material and labour together are both significant cost factors, so understanding both helps you set a realistic budget.

A standard Moncton kitchen backsplash covers the area between the countertop and the upper cabinets — typically 15-25 linear feet at 18 inches of height, which works out to roughly 20-35 square feet of tile. Ceramic subway tile, the most popular backsplash choice in Moncton renovations, runs **\$2-\$6/sq ft for the tile itself**, with installed costs landing in the **\$1,000-\$2,000 range** for a standard backsplash. That's the project most NB homeowners are describing when they picture a backsplash.

Where costs climb is in the tile selection and any complexity in the layout. **Porcelain large-format tiles, handmade ceramic tiles, marble, travertine, or glass mosaic tiles** push material costs to **\$8-\$25/sq ft** for the tile alone. A herringbone or running-bond diagonal pattern requires more cuts and more installer time than standard horizontal stack or running bond, adding **\$200-\$500** in labour. A full-height tile installation from countertop to the ceiling — increasingly popular in Moncton new-build and renovation kitchens — dramatically increases the square footage and therefore the total cost.

Labour in Moncton for tile installation currently runs approximately **\$8-\$15/sq ft installed**, which includes the tile setting, grout, and cleanup. That rate applies to standard rectangular tile in a straightforward pattern. Add 20-30% for complex patterns, mosaic sheets, natural stone, or unusually tight spaces.

Substrate preparation is the cost variable most homeowners overlook. Installing tile over freshly painted drywall requires scuffing the surface and often a skim coat of polymer-modified thinset to create proper adhesion. Over laminate backsplash panels or old tile (which can be tiled over if the surface is flat and structurally sound), a bonding primer or mechanical scarification ensures the new tile stays put. If the substrate is water-damaged, soft, or structurally unsound, replacing it adds **\$200-\$600** to the project. Skipping this prep is one of the most common reasons backsplash tile separates from the wall within a few years.

In terms of where Moncton sits in the NB market, **Moncton labour rates are at the higher end of the NB range** — higher than rural areas and comparable to Fredericton and Saint John. Installer quality and availability vary, and

getting three quotes for a backsplash project is absolutely worth the effort since installed prices can vary 30% between contractors for identical tile and scope.

For NB homeowners who are competent DIYers, **a subway tile backsplash is one of the more approachable tile projects**. The substrate is accessible, the cuts are simple, the tiles are light, and the area is small enough that mistakes are correctable. Tile, thinset, grout, a tile saw rental, and basic tools run **\$400-\$900** for a standard backsplash — saving **\$600-\$1,500** versus professional installation. The caveat is proper substrate prep, level layout lines, consistent grout joint spacing, and waterproof grout and caulking at all transitions. The intersection of the countertop and tile should always be caulked, not grouted — a common mistake that leads to cracking as the countertop and wall move independently.

For installation around outlets, the boxes may need to be extended forward once the tile is applied — a simple electrical task (turn the breaker off) that homeowners can do themselves or have their electrician handle during the broader renovation.

Looking for experienced contractors? The New Brunswick Construction Network connects homeowners with qualified professionals:

- [Thirty Four Renovations](#)
- [Gionetterenovations](#)

[View all contractors ?](#)

What are the pros and cons of butcher block countertops in a humid New Brunswick kitchen?

Butcher block countertops can work beautifully in a New Brunswick kitchen, but they require consistent maintenance and careful installation to survive NB's dramatic humidity swings — without proper sealing and care, a butcher block counter in a Maritime-climate kitchen will crack, warp, or develop mould within a few years. The material is genuinely warm and characterful, but it rewards informed homeowners and punishes neglect.

The appeal of butcher block in an NB kitchen is real. It's warm underfoot to the touch, forgiving on dropped dishes, easily spot-repaired by sanding out scratches and resealing, and significantly less expensive than quartz or granite — **installed butcher block typically runs \$30-\$65/sq ft in NB**, compared to \$60-\$120/sq ft for quartz. It pairs well with the heritage aesthetic of many older NB homes in Fredericton, Saint John, and Moncton's older neighbourhoods, and feels genuinely inviting rather than cold and clinical.

The humidity challenge is the central issue in NB specifically. Wood expands with humidity and contracts as it dries — the 30-50% swing in relative humidity that NB homes experience between summer and winter is among the most pronounced in Canada. Solid wood countertops that aren't properly sealed and maintained will develop checks (small splits along the grain) and cupping (slight bowing across the width) as moisture moves in and out. The risk is highest in kitchens with poor ventilation, older homes without HRV systems, or anyone who doesn't commit to regular oiling and sealing.

Sealing is non-negotiable for NB conditions. An untreated or food-safe oil-only finish (pure mineral oil or beeswax systems) is appropriate for cutting surfaces but insufficient for the broader counter surface in a high-humidity environment. **Penetrating oil-varnish blends or a wiping varnish** provide better moisture resistance while remaining food-safe once cured. Fully film-forming finishes (polyurethane) offer the best moisture protection but scratch visibly and can't be spot-repaired easily. Most NB kitchen design professionals recommend a hybrid approach — penetrating oil-varnish in the main counter areas, with the understanding that the sink area needs extra protection and more frequent maintenance.

The sink area is the highest-risk zone. Standing water around the sink will destroy a butcher block counter that isn't perfectly sealed at the sink cutout and resealed every six months around any water exposure. **Undermount sinks with butcher block are significantly harder to maintain** than drop-in sinks because the wood edge is continuously exposed to moisture from below. If you're set on butcher block with an undermount sink in an NB kitchen, meticulous sealing with a waterproof epoxy at the cutout edges before installation is essential, and the counter should be inspected and resealed twice yearly.

For NB homeowners considering butcher block, **a practical middle-ground approach is extremely popular**: a large quartz section for the main preparation and sink areas, with a butcher block section on the island or breakfast bar where water exposure is minimal. You get the visual warmth and character of wood in the focal-point location without subjecting it to the highest-moisture zone.

In terms of practical maintenance, a well-cared-for butcher block in an NB kitchen needs **oiling or sealing every 3-6 months** depending on the finish type and usage. Scratches and light damage can be sanded out and refinished — this is the genuine advantage over quartz or granite, which are essentially permanent once scratched or chipped. A 15-year-old butcher block counter that has been properly maintained looks as good as new after a light sanding and fresh seal.

One last consideration specific to NB: **mould**. The combination of Maritime humidity, wood, and any moisture intrusion creates ideal conditions for mould growth under and around improperly sealed butcher block. If you see dark staining along the grain of a butcher block counter, it's almost always mould, not a food stain — and it indicates the sealing has failed. Addressing it early with sanding and proper resealing is manageable; letting it progress means the counter needs replacement.

Looking for experienced contractors? The New Brunswick Construction Network connects homeowners with qualified professionals:

- [Thirty Four Renovations](#)
- [Gionetterenovations](#)

[View all contractors ?](#)

Q17

Can I DIY a kitchen renovation in New Brunswick or should I hire a contractor?

A partial kitchen renovation DIY is realistic for many competent NB homeowners — specifically the demolition, painting, cabinet installation, flooring, and backsplash — but the electrical, plumbing, gas, and any structural work must be done by licensed professionals under TSANB permits, no exceptions. The question isn't really DIY versus contractor — it's figuring out which tasks you can safely own and which ones require licensed tradespeople by law.

The honest breakdown of a kitchen renovation by task tells the story clearly. **Demolition is almost always safe to DIY** — pulling out old cabinets, removing a tile backsplash, tearing out flooring, and hauling debris are labour-

intensive but not technically complex. The caveat is confirming no asbestos in the materials before you start swinging hammers. NB homes built before 1990 may have asbestos in floor tiles, vinyl sheet flooring adhesive, plaster texture coatings, and drywall compound. If there's any doubt about asbestos-containing materials, have the material tested before demolition. **Asbestos abatement is professional work — not DIY.**

Cabinet installation is within reach for someone comfortable with measuring, levelling, and using power tools. Stock cabinets from a big-box retailer come with reasonably clear installation instructions, and a weekend of careful work from a capable homeowner with a helper can result in plumb, level, structurally solid cabinetry. The critical skills are finding studs, shimming to compensate for walls that aren't perfectly plumb or square (common in older NB homes), and maintaining a consistent reference line from which all cabinets hang. Where this goes wrong for DIYers is cutting corners on the layout or rushing the levelling — cabinets that are slightly off make every subsequent step (countertop, backsplash, appliances) harder.

Painting, backsplash tile, and flooring installation are all legitimate DIY territory with the right preparation and patience. Click-lock LVP flooring in particular is designed for homeowner installation and the results are comparable to professional installation when the instructions are followed.

The licensed-professional line is clear and firm in NB. **Any new electrical circuit, outlet relocation, hood fan wiring, or panel upgrade requires a TSANB-licensed electrician and a permit.** An island with new outlets, recessed pot lights where there were none, or upgrading from a 15-amp kitchen circuit to the modern 20-amp standard are all permit-required electrical work. The inspector who signs off on your electrical protects you — insurance claims on homes with unpermitted electrical work are routinely denied, and unpermitted work creates disclosure problems at resale.

Plumbing is the same story. Moving a drain, adding a dishwasher connection, or installing a new sink location requires a TSANB-licensed plumber and a permit. Swapping a faucet on existing plumbing is a straightforward homeowner task. Roughing in new plumbing is not.

Gas appliance connection — range, cooktop, or gas dryer — is strictly licensed-gas-fitter territory in NB. This is not negotiable, and it's a safety issue that goes beyond bureaucratic compliance.

What does a hybrid approach look like financially? A kitchen renovation where the homeowner handles demolition, cabinet installation, painting, flooring, and backsplash — while hiring a licensed electrician, plumber, and countertop fabricator — might save **\$8,000-\$15,000** in labour costs on a mid-range NB kitchen renovation. That's a meaningful number, and it's realistic for a homeowner who is genuinely skilled with tools, can dedicate significant time to the project, and is comfortable with the learning curve.

The honest caution is that **kitchen renovations are cross-trade projects where sequencing matters.** Rough electrical and plumbing must be done and inspected before drywall closes. Drywall must be finished before

cabinets go in. Countertops are templated after cabinets are installed. Appliances go in after countertops. A DIYer who doesn't understand this sequencing can accidentally create rework costs that exceed what they saved by not hiring a general contractor. If you haven't renovated a kitchen before, strongly consider hiring a general contractor to manage the project while doing some of the finish work yourself — many contractors are open to this arrangement.

Looking for experienced contractors? The New Brunswick Construction Network connects homeowners with qualified professionals:

- [Thirty Four Renovations](#)
- [Gionetterenovations](#)

[View all contractors ?](#)

Q18

What is the cost difference between a budget and high-end kitchen renovation in NB?

A budget kitchen renovation in New Brunswick runs \$15,000-\$25,000 for a cosmetic refresh keeping the same layout, while a high-end kitchen renovation runs \$75,000-\$150,000+ for a full gut with custom cabinetry, premium finishes, and layout changes. The difference between those numbers isn't luxury versus sensible — it's scope, materials, and whether trades need to touch the plumbing, electrical, and structure.

At the budget end (\$15,000-\$25,000), you're working with the existing layout, existing cabinet boxes, and existing plumbing and electrical locations. The budget gets spent on: cabinet door replacement or professional repainting, new hardware, a mid-range countertop (laminare at \$25-\$40/sq ft or entry-level quartz at \$55-\$70/sq ft), a tile backsplash, new lighting on existing wiring, and new flooring. This scope — done thoughtfully with cohesive material choices — genuinely transforms a dated NB kitchen and looks impressive in real estate photos. It's the right approach for homeowners who are selling in the next two to three years and need a strong return, or for anyone with a kitchen whose bones are solid but whose aesthetics are 20 years behind.

The mid-range (\$25,000-\$50,000) is where most comprehensive NB kitchen renovations land. This includes new semi-custom cabinetry at \$150-\$350/linear foot, quartz countertops, updated plumbing fixtures in existing locations, new electrical circuits for modern kitchen demand (dishwasher, under-cabinet lighting, island outlets), quality tile backsplash, new flooring, and a full lighting redesign. The kitchen layout typically stays the same or changes

minimally, because moving the sink even a metre adds \$2,500-\$5,000 for the drain rough-in and plumbing permit.

At the high end (\$75,000-\$150,000+), the renovation is effectively a full gut of the kitchen — sometimes extending into adjacent spaces as part of an open-concept conversion. This is custom cabinetry at \$500-\$1,200/linear foot, waterfall-edge quartzite or marble countertops, a custom tile or slab backsplash, full plumbing relocation, 200-amp panel upgrade to support a full suite of professional appliances, in-floor heating, pot-filler over the range, integrated refrigerators and dishwashers, custom millwork for a range hood surround, and a lighting plan designed by someone who does this professionally. **The appliances alone in a high-end NB kitchen often run \$15,000-\$40,000** for a professional-grade range, built-in refrigerator, steam oven, and wine fridge.

The most important insight for NB homeowners planning a kitchen renovation is that **the biggest cost drivers aren't the materials — they're the trades**. Moving plumbing costs the same in a budget renovation as in a luxury one. Removing a load-bearing wall to open the layout costs the same regardless of whether you put quartz or marble on the counters after. An older Moncton or Fredericton home with knob-and-tube wiring, outdated plumbing, inadequate ventilation, or a low-capacity electrical panel will incur trade costs before a single cabinet goes in, and those costs aren't optional or deferrable if you're opening walls.

The other major cost variable is the condition of your existing NB home. A 1960s bungalow may look like a cosmetic refresh project until the walls open and reveal asbestos pipe insulation, outdated electrical, and joists that have been notched improperly by a previous owner. **Budget 20-25% contingency on any kitchen renovation in a pre-1980 NB home** — not because contractors pad their estimates, but because older homes hold surprises that no one can predict from the surface.

For NB homeowners trying to calibrate where to invest: return on investment analysis consistently shows that **mid-range kitchen renovations (\$30,000-\$50,000) in NB homes return 60-80% of their cost in added home value**, while high-end renovations above \$100,000 in homes priced under \$500,000 rarely return more than 50%. The sweet spot for resale is a complete, cohesive kitchen that looks current — not necessarily the most expensive kitchen achievable.

For detailed kitchen renovation planning, New Brunswick Kitchens at newbrunswickkitchens.com breaks down material choices, budget planning, and contractor selection in depth.

Looking for experienced contractors? The New Brunswick Construction Network connects homeowners with qualified professionals:

- Gionetterenovations
- Thirty Four Renovations

[View all contractors ?](#)

Disclaimer: This guide is provided for informational purposes only by New Brunswick Renovations. It does not constitute professional advice. Always consult qualified, licensed contractors and your local building authority before starting any home renovation project. Information is current as of April 5, 2026 and may change. Visit newbrunswickrenovations.com for the latest answers.