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# How to save time and money with a DIY flatpack kitchen

With new finishes and fittings, the out-of-the-box approach is increasingly popular with renovators

**Q** I want to install a new kitchen, but it looks quite expensive. How can I bring down costs, but still get the finish I want?

**A** In terms of costs, the kitchen may be by far the most expensive room to renovate. The idea that you could do it yourself may sound far fetched, but there are several companies who specialise in flatpack kitchens.

Wholesale Kitchens launched its Xpress range for homeowners looking to renovate on a budget or flip for profit.

The company's senior designer Julie Hanover says the flatpack kitchens are available off the shelf, and include a free design consultation.

"The flatpack is delivered to the customer's door just 10 days after final payment. It comes out of the box as ready to assemble, with pre-dowelled components — saving time and money on installation," Julie says.

"We see our target market as renovators on a budget or those renovating for profit, without skimping on quality details."

The Xpress range includes a choice of either laminate or Silestone benchtops, and cabinetry. Julie says when it comes to the installation, she recommends the Xpress kitchen for experienced DIY-ers, keeping in mind that plumbing and electrics will still require a qualified tradesperson.

"We've seen more and more people get the confidence to take on their own DIY projects from watching renovation shows such as The Block, where they see everyday people achieving some inspiring results," Julie says.

With flatpack kitchens in particular, the appeal also lies in the speed at which you can build. Plus you can create your ideal kitchen to suit your budget and your needs, whether it's to refresh your kitchen with limited interruption to your life, or to quickly make over a kitchen in a property you're readying

for the rental market.

"We think we're enabling flatpack kitchens to become an even more popular choice, because the style and quality surpasses what has been previously available in this category," Julie says.

Julie says customers do have initial concerns around quality with a flatpack kitchen, but the range uses high quality moisture resistant board for cabinetry, solid 16mm construction including back panel, and features soft full extension drawer runners and soft close doors as standard.

"In places like the UK flatpack kitchens have been around for a while and are more commonplace because their rules around building are different to our local restrictions; they are also sometimes able to transfer their kitchens when they move from one place to another, and flatpacks are suited to being more mobile.

"That said, flatpack kitchens aren't completely new to Australia but we don't feel it had been nailed it to a point that consumers felt confident about it," she says.

**Words** Catherine Nikas-Boulos  
**More** [wholesalekitchens.com.au/xpress-range](http://wholesalekitchens.com.au/xpress-range)

## Have a go

**Ikea says anyone can put a flatpack kitchen together, but interior design manager Tiffany Buckins says before you take on a project like this, invest time in preparing your workspace. Here are her tips:**

✓ Measure your space properly. It's important you get this right because they will be the basis for all your

planning.

- ✓ Walls have a tendency to not be square so it's best to measure from a few different heights to ensure a custom fit.
  - ✓ Set yourself a manageable goal, for instance, 'I will build five cabinets a day'.
  - ✓ Allow plenty of time and set the scene for a productive build with music, snacks and water within easy reach.
  - ✓ Secure the right tools including a hand drill, screwdriver, level and a rubber mallet.
  - ✓ Clear your kitchen and work area. It's best to work on a table with a towel on it or a carpeted area in another room. This will prevent scratches on your new cabinetry.
  - ✓ Start building your lower cabinet frames one at a time and place them in your kitchen as you go. I like to work from the corner out so you can make changes along the way.
  - ✓ Build all your drawers and install as you go. Start the same process with the wall cabinets.
  - ✓ Adjust hinges and doors as you go and install knobs and handles to finish.
- More** [ikea.com.au](http://ikea.com.au)



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Add practical accessories from Ikea to suit your needs.



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