



Patina Construction and Development Reports Structural Problems Surface in Half of Older Home Kitchen Remodel Projects

September 01, 2026

PITTSBURGH, PA - September 01, 2026 -

Contractors working on Pittsburgh homes built before 1990 report that structural and code-related issues surface in roughly half of kitchen and bath remodels once demolition begins, according to project data compiled by Patina Construction and Development. The finding points to a regional pattern tied to the age of the area's housing stock, where original wiring, framing, and wall construction frequently fall short of the loads and standards that modern kitchen and bath designs require.

The data documents several recurring conditions that appear once walls and floors are opened. Wiring that no longer meets current electrical code is among the most common, followed by floor joists too weak to carry the weight of stone countertops and tile, and load-bearing walls that require an engineered beam before an open-concept layout can proceed. Each condition carries a cost that homeowners rarely anticipate when planning a project around finishes and fixtures.

According to the company's published cost guide, structural repair typically ranges from 1,000 to 12,000 dollars, while electrical and code upgrades run from 1,500 to 8,000 dollars. These figures fall into the category of hidden kitchen remodel costs, expenses that do not appear in an initial estimate because the underlying problem stays out of view until demolition exposes it. In older homes, a single project can involve more than one of these findings at once.

Pittsburgh's housing stock makes the issue regional rather than isolated. A large share of the city's homes predate the electrical demands of contemporary kitchens and the material weight of current design trends. Framing sized for linoleum and laminate decades ago now sits beneath quartz slabs and porcelain tile, and branch circuits installed before modern appliance loads were common often cannot support a remodeled kitchen without upgrades.

Quentin Carbone, a project manager at Patina Construction and Development, said the gap between early detection and later failure is measured in both dollars and disruption.

"On one recent job we found joists that had started to sag under an old tile floor," Carbone said. "Reinforcing them during demolition cost about 3,000 dollars and added two days to the schedule. Left alone, that same span fails under a stone countertop, and two years later the homeowner is looking at a cracked floor, damaged cabinets, and a repair closer to 30,000 dollars once everything above it has to come out."

The company points to pre-demolition inspection as the step that moves these findings from mid-project surprises to planned line items. An inspection that examines wiring, joist spans, and wall structure before work begins allows conditions to be identified while the budget and schedule can still absorb them, rather than surfacing as change orders after cabinets have been ordered and countertops scheduled. Details on the conditions above and their associated ranges appear in the firm's full remodeling cost breakdown.

Patina Construction and Development provides kitchen and bath remodeling services for homeowners throughout the greater Pittsburgh region. The firm focuses on renovation work in the area's established neighborhoods, where older construction frequently requires structural and code assessment alongside design and finish selection. Its published cost guidance is intended to help homeowners understand the range of conditions that renovation of an aging home can involve.

###

For more information about Patina Construction & Development, LLC, contact the company here: Patina Construction Quentin Carbone (412) 518-2478 quentinjcarbone@gmail.com 3103 Brereton St Pittsburgh, PA, 15219, United States

Patina Construction & Development, LLC

Patina Construction is a trusted Pittsburgh kitchen remodeling company known for quality craftsmanship, transparent communication, and designs built to last. They transform kitchens, baths, and homes with care, precision, and lasting value.

Website: <https://www.patinaconstruction.com/>

Email: quentinjcarbone@gmail.com

Phone: (412) 518-2478

