

Schooner Bay Builders Warns Homeowners About Costly Kitchen Remodel Materials Mistakes

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Schooner Bay Builders is alerting Southwest Florida homeowners to five critical material selection errors that frequently result in expensive repairs and premature replacements during kitchen renovations, with some mistakes costing homeowners thousands of dollars in avoidable expenses.

The Fort Myers-based construction and remodeling company has identified specific material choices that fail prematurely in the region's humid, coastal environment, leading to replacement costs that often exceed initial installation expenses by significant margins. These findings come as the company observes recurring patterns of material failure across residential properties in Fort Myers, Cape Coral, and surrounding communities.

The first and most costly mistake involves selecting unsealed natural stone countertops, particularly granite, without proper moisture protection. In Southwest Florida's humidity levels that regularly exceed 75 percent, unsealed granite absorbs moisture, leading to staining, bacterial growth, and structural degradation within two

to three years. Homeowners face replacement costs ranging from $3,000 to $8,000, compared to the minimal $200 to $400 cost of professional sealing.

The second error concerns cabinet material selection, specifically choosing solid wood cabinets without moisture-resistant treatments. The region's coastal salt air and humidity cause untreated wood to warp, crack, and develop mold within 18 to 24 months. Replacement costs average $15,000 to $25,000, while properly treated marine-grade plywood or moisture-resistant MDF alternatives provide decades of durability at comparable initial costs.

Installing standard laminate flooring represents the third critical mistake. While budget-friendly initially, standard laminate buckles and separates in high-humidity environments, requiring complete replacement within three to five years at costs between $4,000 and $7,000. Porcelain tile or properly sealed engineered hardwood alternatives withstand regional conditions significantly better.

"After reviewing dozens of premature kitchen failures across Southwest Florida, we felt compelled to share this kitchen remodel materials guide with the community," stated Dustin Gardner, Director of Operations at Schooner Bay Builders. "Homeowners investing in kitchen renovations deserve to understand how our unique climate impacts material longevity. The difference between selecting appropriate materials and making these common mistakes often means the difference between a kitchen that lasts 20 years versus one requiring major repairs in under five years."

The fourth mistake involves choosing standard drywall instead of moisture-resistant alternatives in kitchen areas. Regular drywall absorbs humidity, leading to sagging, mold growth, and structural compromise within two years, necessitating repairs costing $2,000 to $4,000. Moisture-resistant drywall adds minimal cost during initial installation while preventing these issues entirely.

The fifth error concerns hardware and fixture selection, particularly choosing non-marine-grade metals. Standard chrome and untreated steel fixtures corrode rapidly in coastal environments, requiring replacement every two to three years at cumulative costs exceeding $1,500. Marine-grade stainless steel or powder-coated alternatives resist corrosion indefinitely.

The company has developed kitchen remodeling videos demonstrating proper material selection techniques and installation methods specific to coastal climates. These educational resources help homeowners understand material performance differences before committing to renovation investments.

Schooner Bay Builders specializes in custom home construction and remodeling services throughout

Southwest Florida, emphasizing climate-appropriate building practices and materials that withstand regional environmental challenges.

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Schooner Bay Builders, LLC

Schooner Bay Builders is a Cape Coral, FL builder specializing in kitchen remodeling, bath remodeling, and new home construction across Southwest Florida, with a focus on trusted service, upgraded features, and lasting value.

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