The kitchen insider's *field guide.*

Plan beautifully. Buy intelligently.

Door styles. Materials. Storage. Appliances. Better questions.
A more confident path from your first idea to your finished kitchen.

A remarkable kitchen starts before the quote.

01

Define your priorities.

List what you love, what frustrates you and what must change. Keep layout, storage, finish and appliance needs in separate columns.

02

Build one clear brief.

Bring room photographs, rough dimensions, inspiration and any itemized quotes. A showroom designer can turn your priorities into product-specific choices.

03

Compare before you commit.

Match scope, quantities, construction, finishes, delivery and installation. Ask questions about every allowance and exclusion before placing an order.

04

Confirm the final details.

Have the responsible professionals verify dimensions, services, appliance specifications and installation requirements before fabrication or ordering.

Find your signature.

A study of 12 door profiles from the expanded online studio. These are design inspirations, not manufacturer product photographs.

LOOK

Shape changes the room.

Compare recessed, raised, slab, textured and glass fronts. Look at an actual full-size door, not just a finish chip.

BUILD

Ask what is behind it.

Confirm box construction, door material, drawer joinery, runner type, load rating, adjustment and written warranty for the exact line quoted.

Character you can feel.

GRAIN

Choose character deliberately.

Ask to compare natural grain, stain absorption, color variation and painted surfaces. Species and finish direction belong together.

SAMPLE

See it in your light.

Ask about available take-home, loan or orderable samples. Compare cabinetry beside your actual flooring and countertop under daytime and evening light.

Confirm exact species and finish names with your showroom. Screen color and illustrated texture cannot replace the physical product sample.

The details you use every day.

Top to bottom, left to right: pantry; waste and recycling; cutlery; cookware; corner storage; tray dividers; spices; pull-down shelves; lift-up doors; coffee station; task lighting; charging drawer.

Ask before ordering: Does the accessory fit the actual cabinet opening, interior depth, hinge position and plumbing? What is its rated load? Can you remove and service it? Which finish and mounting options are compatible?

Original installation inspirations, not actual manufacturer SKUs. Explore verified manufacturer collections on the website for specifications.

Let the way you cook lead the design.

COOK

Cooking & ventilation

Compare fuel, width, pan layout and ventilation. Have your installer check electrical capacity, gas where relevant, duct routing and applicable local requirements.

COOL

Refrigeration

Check actual dimensions, door swing, ventilation, water supply and service access. Counter-depth and built-in are not interchangeable specifications.

CLEAN

Dishwashing & convenience

Compare rack layout, reach, drying and controls. Plan coffee machines, beverage refrigeration and other specialty appliances before fixing the cabinet layout.

FIT

The exact model matters

Provide every installation manual to the designer and installer. Confirm panel-ready dimensions, cutouts, clearances and utilities before fabrication.

What could the difference mean for your kitchen?

Home Depot quote

Quoted cabinets $17,521

Member price $8,865

Cabinet-price difference: $8,656 | After $4,995 Gold enrollment: $3,661

Lowe's quote

Quoted cabinets $14,881

Member price $8,125

Cabinet-price difference: $6,756 | After $4,995 Gold enrollment: $1,761

High-end kitchen company quote

Quoted cabinets $26,778

Member price $12,935

Cabinet-price difference: $13,843 | After $4,995 Gold enrollment: $8,848

Three separate kitchen examples reported by HIBC. These compare quoted cabinet figures, not a complete installed remodel. Taxes, delivery, installation and other project costs are not included. Exact scope and your own project pricing must be compared; results vary.

Good questions protect a beautiful result.

01

Confirm requirements for your project

Use this as general consumer guidance, not a determination of which license your project requires. Ask your local building department and the applicable licensing board about permits, inspections, specialty trades and project-specific requirements.

02

Verify the exact contractor

Match the business and person on your proposed contract to the official record. Check active status and the work classification. Confirm that the representative is authorized. A displayed license number or business registration alone is not enough.

03

Check insurance separately

Request current general-liability and workers' compensation information, where applicable, and verify coverage with the insurer or agent. Ask how subcontractors are covered. A contractor license does not universally require general-liability insurance.

04

Compare written bids and check references

Compare at least three written bids for the same scope, materials, schedule and warranty. Ask references about similar recent projects, communication and callbacks. Do not choose on price or finished photographs alone.

05

Put responsibilities in writing

Specify the work, price, products, exclusions, start and completion expectations, and who obtains permits and schedules inspections. Document changes to the work and price before proceeding. Keep a signed copy of every agreement.

06

Protect payments and records

Avoid full advance payment, cash-only demands and pressure to sign immediately. Agree on payment milestones and check state-specific deposit limits and cancellation rights. Keep contracts, receipts, messages, photographs and inspection records.

Showrooms may offer local installer lists. You select and contract with the installer independently; HIBC does not guarantee workmanship. Verify the rules that apply to your location and trade.

Check the right authority.

Use the official links below. Verify exact identity, active status and work classification. Registration is not an endorsement. Specialty trades and local permits may require separate checks.

Oregon

CCB contractor licensing; check electrical and plumbing credentials separately.

Washington

Registration, bond, insurance and workers compensation information.

California

CSLB licensing, status and the classification that covers your project.

Arizona

Registrar of Contractors: identity, status and permitted classification.

Nevada

Contractor status, classification and applicable monetary limit.

Texas

No statewide general-contractor license. Check city rules and regulated trades.

Florida

Verify the qualifying individual and associated business through DBPR.

Georgia

Residential and general-contractor verification; check specialty trades too.

North Carolina

General-contractor licensing has project-value thresholds. Confirm your scope.

Tennessee

Select the relevant contractor, home-improvement or trade category.

Virginia

Check DPOR status, class and specialty for the proposed work.

Maryland

MHIC licensing for covered home-improvement work; verify applicability.

New York

Local licensing directory, not a statewide general-contractor lookup.

New Jersey

Home-improvement business verification through Consumer Affairs.

Pennsylvania

Home-improvement registration is not an endorsement of competence.

Massachusetts

HIC registration and construction-supervisor licensing are distinct.

Michigan

LARA homeowner resources link to license verification.

Illinois

No statewide general-contractor license. Chicago has a local lookup.

Minnesota

DLI licensing and registration; check the applicable contractor type.

Compare like for like. Then decide.

COMPARE THIS	QUOTE A	QUOTE B
Exact cabinet line, door and finish		
Cabinet count, sizes and layout		
Box, door and drawer construction		
Hinges, runners and rated loads		
Trim, panels and fillers		
Storage accessories and organizers		
Countertop material, edge and cutouts		
Appliance models and fitting needs		
Delivery, handling and lead time		
Installation, preparation and disposal		
Taxes, fees and exclusions		
Warranty, changes and payment terms		

Ask your showroom to help compare an itemized quote. Product substitutions, quantities or missing installation scope can change the apparent savings.

See it. Touch it. Make it yours.

Bring your room photos, measurements, appliance list, favorite materials and current quotes. Ask your independent showroom team about physical samples, product choices, installer lists and a product-specific kitchen design.

Explore Gold: $4,995 for the first year, then $495 annually starting in Year 2. Full membership refund within 30 days if you are dissatisfied and have placed no orders.

HIBC does not add a product markup. Your independent showroom team provides design and pricing; our member-support team helps you navigate products, suppliers and the next step.

Start your free kitchen design

support@homeimprovementbuyingclub.com

Keep exploring.

Manufacturer sources for the online discovery library. Product specifications, finishes and availability are confirmed with your showroom for your project. These links are not a promise of local stock.

Bellmont - Shaker - DLX

Bellmont - Terra

Medallion - Sonoma Flat Panel Gold

Medallion - Bayside Platinum

Waypoint - 650 Door Style

Waypoint - 540 Door Style

Decora - Prescott

Diamond - Bryant

Blum - LEGRABOX

Blum - AMBIA-LINE

Blum - AVENTOS HF top

Blum - REVEGO

Blum - MOVENTO

Blum - ORGA-LINE

Rev-A-Shelf - 5PD Series Pull-Down Shelf

Rev-A-Shelf - 448 Sidekick

Rev-A-Shelf - 4WCTM Series Wood Top Mount Waste Container

Rev-A-Shelf - 4WLS Series Single Shelf Full Circle Lazy Susan

Bosch - 800 Series Dishwashers

Bosch - Induction Cooktops

Bosch - French Door Refrigerators

Bosch - Built-in Espresso and Coffee Machines

Bosch - Wall Ovens

KitchenAid - Commercial-Style Ranges

KitchenAid - Wall Ovens

KitchenAid - Microwaves

KitchenAid - Range Hoods and Vents

KitchenAid - Three-Rack Dishwashers

FTC: Avoiding home-improvement scams

Washington L&I: Hire Smart

September 2026 edition. Original kitchen scenes, door studies and accessory illustrations are conceptual inspiration, not completed member projects or manufacturer product photographs.