

## Good foundation is important first step of tiling

**Q:** I'm going to replace my countertop with ceramic tile and so I have removed my old laminate one leaving nothing but the cabinets below. I have done some small floor tiling projects but never a countertop. I'm going to reuse my drop-in sink and faucet, but how do I go about building the base that the tiles will sit on?

**A:** Tiling a countertop is like building a house: If the foundation is weak, you are going to have problems. Once the foundation is down, the tiling part of the job goes pretty quickly.

You are going to lay down a ¾-inch sheet of plywood and, depending on the height of the edge tiles, lay down a sheet of ½-inch cement board on top of it. This whole mess will be mortared and screwed together.

Start by installing ledger boards on the perimeter walls if there is no support there, and screw the ledger boards to the wall studs.

Cut sheets of ¾-inch plywood to sit on top of the cabinets so that the edge of the plywood sits evenly with the frame of the cabinets. Drill pilot holes in the top of the cabinet frame and screw the plywood to the frame and along the ledger boards.

Now, check out the height of the edge tiles. These are called "V" caps and have a rounded edge that transitions the horizontal surface to a vertical one. If the height is such that they may interfere with the operation of the doors, then you will need to add an additional layer of plywood. If this is necessary, use construction adhesive and screws.

Flip your sink upside down on the plywood and make a mark around it. Remove the sink and make another mark inside the first line so that the sink rim will have enough area on which to rest. Drill a hole inside this second line and cut out the area



**MIKE KLIMEK**  
ASK THE HANDYMAN

with a jigsaw.

As a final step for the base, lay a sheet of ½-inch cement board on top of the plywood. Trowel a layer of thin-set mortar on the plywood and screw it down. You can cut the cement board by scoring one side and snapping it or by using an abrasive blade in a jigsaw.

You will also want to reinforce the edges, so add a strip of cement board equal to the thickness of the base. Use galvanized nails to secure it and then wrap the edges with fiberglass tape before embedding it in a thin layer of thin-set mortar.

Now you're ready to lay out the tile.

There are no hard and fast rules for tile layout except that you want to avoid thin pieces of tile. Pick a spot that is highly visible and start by laying out tiles across the surface. If your counter changes direction rather than just a straight run against the wall, a corner area is a good place to start.

Some tiles have built-in lugs to keep them evenly spaced and some will require you to install spacers (or you can just eyeball the spacing). Lay out the tiles and use a framing square to make sure the lines are straight. You can snap chalk lines and lay one row in each direction.

If you end up with a thin piece of tile on one side, move the tiles over to eliminate the slivers. Then you can snap a new chalk line.

Mix up a batch of thin-set mortar and trowel it on with a square-notched trowel. Lay the tiles in sections. When you have completed one section, move to the next.

### Do-it-yourself

**Project:** Tile a countertop  
**Cost:** From \$200  
**Time:** One to two days  
**Difficulty:** ★★ ★★

When it comes time to cut a tile, you can rent a wet saw or you can buy a cheap one for less than \$100, and it will work great for this job.

When it comes time to install the V-cap tiles, you can clamp a board to the cabinets as a place for the tile to sit against until the mortar cures, or you can tape the V-caps to the tiles in front of them.

For the backsplash, either line up the grout lines or make the backsplash tiles line up halfway between the field tiles. Let the mortar cure according to the manufacturer's specifications (usually 24 hours).

To grout, you'll need a grout float (a piece of rubber attached to a handle), bucket of water, large sponge and dry white rag. Mix the grout, then use the grout float to push it into the spaces between the tiles. Keep the face of the float at an angle and pull it diagonally across the face of the tiles filling every nook and cranny.

Wring out the sponge in clean water and wipe up the excess grout. When the sponge gets clogged with grout, dunk it in the water and wring it out.

About 15 minutes after you sponge off the grout, you'll notice a haze forming on the tile. Use the rag to buff it off. You should do this promptly. After that just reinstall the sink.

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## Budgeting for two common remodeling projects

By Lauren White  
HomeAdvisor

It's easy to imagine the end result of a remodeling project — an updated spa bathroom or an open-concept kitchen with new cabinets and countertops. But it's harder to imagine just what those renovations will cost and, even more so, how far your own budget will take you. Here's a look at what you can achieve with modest, average and luxury budgets for two common remodeling projects, according to data from HomeAdvisor's True Cost Guide.

### Bathroom remodels

Even small modifications can have a big impact in a bathroom remodel. On average, homeowners spend around \$6,000 to \$14,000, depending on the size and extent of the project.

**Modest:** With a budget of around \$2,500, you can give your bathroom

a fresh coat of paint, upgrade the toilet and sink, add new decor and update the lighting.

**Average:** For closer to \$10,000, you can swap out surfaces and fixtures, so long as you don't move plumbing or electrical systems. You can get new cabinetry, flooring and countertop materials — and even upgrade to a curbless walk-in shower.

**Luxury:** With a budget of around \$24,000, you can move plumbing fixtures, invest in high-end flooring and countertop materials and install new, custom-made cabinetry. You can also add tile installations, radiant floor heating and a luxury shower.

### Kitchen remodels

Most people have a vision of their "dream" kitchen, but not everyone can afford it right off the bat. Homeowners tend to spend \$12,500 to \$33,500 to create a kitchen that both

appeals to their tastes and complements their lifestyle.

**Modest:** With around \$4,000, you can either reface or refinish the cabinetry, upgrade your countertops or get all-new appliances. And your budget could also include detail work like painting, new plumbing fixtures and lighting.

**Average:** With a budget of closer to \$22,000, you can paint, get new countertops, reface or replace your cabinets and invest in high-quality appliances. You can also add a kitchen island or remove a wall. Note that removing a load-bearing wall could cost over \$10,000.

**Luxury:** Most homeowners spend over \$50,000 for a luxury kitchen remodel. With this, you can change the layout, knock out a wall, install new windows, get high-end flooring and countertop materials and upgrade to the latest and greatest appliances.

## ► MACRAME

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"She has seen an uptick in interest for macrame lessons, from grandmothers to Girl Scout troops."

"I enjoy teaching it to anyone who is interested in learning this technique," she said.

Macrame and weaving were considered rudimentary, bulky and bland for decades, she said. But the art form is making a comeback in many ways, from chunky jewelry to stunning curtains that drape in luxurious folds of fine bumps and loops.

"In life, everything seems to come around full circle," said Adrezin, who once created a stunning focal point for her living room with a macrame hanging from ceiling to floor that included two table surfaces. "It's fascinating to see how macrame is being used now."

Consumers interested in macrame are asking for contemporary, sleek

and modest designs over the bulky and dark macrame of the past, said local macrame artist Katie Pyankov, who runs Macrame Market on Etsy with her daughter Zima. She has increased her sales at her online Etsy site by half in the past two years.

"It's coming back but it's more and more of a modern look," she said. "Simplicity is the key to design right now."

Her hand-crafted planters range from natural fibers in earthy tones to vibrant polypropylene cord hangers in magenta, teal and bright blue.

"The trend is leading to the more natural look, colors and textures," Pyankov said. "It's a simpler version than what we have had 30 years ago. It's not as heavy, there are not as many tassels, knots or dark colors to it."

She began working with macrame in the 1980s after her mother brought home some macrame materials. The hobby turned into a lucrative online business when a friend suggested she open a shop on Etsy.

She has since sold more than 2,300 macrame creations at her Macrame Market shop.

"I liked that it is a simple way to add something to the design of your interior," Pyankov said. "It's something that adds warmth to a space because it is handmade."

The material options for macrame continue to expand.

"Since I started in 2011, there are more supplies that are available now, more options," she said. "It makes it more interesting."

Pyankov sees the trend growing, with more orders coming in asking for more diverse creations. She has had requests for chandeliers made in a macrame style as well as glass spheres wrapped in distinct cords for tabletop designs.

"It adds warmth and depth and it is something very unique to your home, your space," she said. "It is authentic and unique more than other things you can put in your home to give it character."

## EVENTS

### July 14

**What:** University of Nevada Cooperative Extension hosts a workshop on Gardening in Small Places. Dr. Angela O'Callaghan will discuss the principles of organic gardening.

**When:** 9 a.m.-noon  
**Where:** 8050 Paradise Road  
**Info:** Contact Elaine Fagin at 702-257-5573 or fagine@unce.unr.edu.

**What:** Water Smart Drip Irrigation class taught by staff from the Southern Nevada Water Authority, in partnership with the Springs Preserve

**When:** 9 a.m.-noon  
**Where:** Springs Preserve, 333 S. Valley View Blvd.  
**Cost:** Free for members or included with general admission

**What:** Fresh52 Farmers Market  
**When:** 9 a.m.-1 p.m., second and fourth Saturday  
**Where:** Solista Park at Inspirada, 2000 Via Firenze, Henderson  
**Info:** fresh52.com or 702-900-2552

**What:** Las Vegas Farmers Market Downtown Summerlin  
**When:** 9 a.m.-2 p.m.  
**Where:** 1980 Festival Plaza Drive  
**Info:** lasvegasfarmersmarket.com

**What:** Farmers & Makers Market  
**When:** 9 a.m.-2 p.m.  
**Where:** Ti voli Village, 400 S. Rampart Blvd.  
**Info:** facebook.com/tivolivillage/v

**What:** Gardens guided walk.  
**When:** 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.; also Sunday  
**Where:** Springs Preserve, 333 S. Valley View Blvd.  
**Cost:** Free for members; included with general admission  
**Info:** 702-822-7700

### July 15

**What:** Fresh52 Farmers Market  
**When:** 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m.  
**Where:** Sansone Park, 9480 S. Eastern Ave.  
**Info:** fresh52.com or 702-900-2552

**What:** On the Ranch Farmers and Artisan Market  
**When:** 9 a.m.-2 p.m.  
**Where:** Craig Ranch Regional Park, 628 W. Craig Road, North Las Vegas  
**Info:** ontheranchmarket.com or 702-726-2426

### July 18

**What:** Las Vegas Farmers Market Bruce Trent Park  
**When:** 2-5 p.m.  
**Where:** 1600 N. Rampart Blvd. at Vegas Drive  
**Info:** lasvegasfarmersmarket.com

### July 19

**What:** Henderson Farmers Market  
**When:** 9 a.m.-4 p.m.  
**Where:** Downtown Events Plaza, 240 Water St., Henderson  
**Info:** 702-579-9661

**What:** Las Vegas Farmers Market Gardens Park  
**When:** 2-8 p.m.  
**Where:** 10401 Gardens Park Drive at Town Center Drive  
**Info:** lasvegasfarmersmarket.com

### July 20

**What:** Downtown3rd Farmers Market  
**When:** 9 a.m.-2 p.m.  
**Where:** 300 N. Casino Center Drive  
**Cost:** Varies by product; cash only

**What:** Henderson Farmers Market  
**When:** 9 a.m.-4 p.m.  
**Where:** Henderson Pavilion, 200 S. Green Valley Parkway  
**Info:** 702-579-9661

### Your Home

The Your Home section appears Saturdays in the Las Vegas Review-Journal. Submit information regarding home or gardening events, professional meetings or story ideas to jeschied@reviewjournal.com. Deadline for submissions is noon eight days before publication, 1111 W. Bonanza Road, Las Vegas, NV 89106, 702-383-0432.

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