
DPL INTERIORS

**The Telford Homeowner's
Kitchen Planning Checklist**

Avoid the 12 Costliest Mistakes

25+ Years of Trusted Craftsmanship in Telford

Before You Start

If you're planning a kitchen renovation in Telford, this checklist will save you thousands. After 25 years of designing and installing kitchens across Shropshire, we've seen every mistake in the book — and we've created this guide so you don't have to make them yourself.

Use this checklist whether you choose us or not. We'd rather you made a great decision than a quick one.

How to Use This Guide

1. Read through each of the 12 common mistakes.
2. Use the action steps to protect yourself during your kitchen project.
3. Tick off the summary checklist on page 7 as you go.
4. Keep this guide handy when meeting with any kitchen company.

The 12 Costliest Mistakes

01 Not checking if your fitter uses the same team every time

Why it matters:

National chains and busy fitters rotate whoever's available. You end up explaining your preferences to three different people. Consistency matters — the fitter who starts your job should finish it.

→ What to do:

Ask directly: "Will the same team be here from start to finish?" If they hesitate, that's your answer.

02 Accepting a quote that doesn't include fitting costs

Why it matters:

Many companies quote low for materials then add fitting as an "extra." The £8,000 kitchen becomes £14,000. Always demand a fully inclusive quote.

→ What to do:

Ask for one number that covers everything — design, materials, fitting, plumbing, electrics, waste removal.

03 Choosing based on showroom impressions instead of home consultations

Why it matters:

Showroom kitchens are designed to sell. Your kitchen has real walls, real plumbing, and real constraints. A proper design consultation happens at your home, with measurements and planning.

→ What to do:

Ask if the designer will visit your home before quoting.

The 12 Costliest Mistakes (cont.)

04 Not asking about disruption timelines

Why it matters:

A kitchen renovation means no cooking facilities for the duration. The difference between 5 days and 5 weeks is enormous on your daily life.

→ What to do:

Get a day-by-day schedule in writing before committing.

05 Skipping the structural check

Why it matters:

Telford properties — especially those built in the 60s–80s — can have hidden issues behind walls. Damp, old wiring, dodgy plumbing. A professional fitter will check before quoting.

→ What to do:

Ask what happens if problems are found during installation. Who pays? Is there a contingency in the quote?

06 Not getting at least three quotes

Why it matters:

You need context. One quote means nothing. Three quotes show you the range and help you spot who's cutting corners to undercut.

→ What to do:

Get three proper quotes. Don't just go with the cheapest. Look at what's included.

07 Ignoring reviews and references

Why it matters:

Every fitter says they're great. Reviews from real customers tell you the truth. Look for consistency in reviews, not just star ratings.

→ What to do:

Check Google reviews, Facebook reviews, and ask for references you can actually call.

The 12 Costliest Mistakes (cont.)

08 Paying everything upfront

Why it matters:

A reputable fitter will have fair payment terms — typically 50% deposit, remainder on completion. If someone wants full payment before starting, that's a red flag.

→ **What to do:**

Agree payment terms in writing before any money changes hands.

09 Choosing units without seeing them in person

Why it matters:

Colours look different on screens. Materials feel different in person. Soft-close mechanisms vary wildly in quality.

→ **What to do:**

Visit a showroom or ask to see physical samples before making final choices.

10 Not planning for electrics and plumbing early

Why it matters:

Moving a sink or adding under-cabinet lighting requires planning before installation day. Last-minute changes cost significantly more.

→ **What to do:**

Discuss electrics and plumbing routing during the design consultation, not during installation.

11 Forgetting about ventilation and extraction

Why it matters:

Modern kitchens with powerful hobs need proper extraction. This often means ducting through walls — which needs planning.

→ **What to do:**

Ask where the extractor will vent and whether new ducting is included in the quote.

The 12 Costliest Mistakes (cont.)

12 Not getting everything in writing

Why it matters:

Verbal promises mean nothing when there's a dispute. Every detail — from paint colours to socket positions — should be documented.

→ **What to do:**

Get a detailed specification document that lists everything included in your project.

Your Planning Checklist

Tick off each item as you work through your kitchen project.

- 1. Confirmed same fitting team throughout
- 2. Got fully inclusive quote (materials + fitting + plumbing + electrics)
- 3. Had design consultation at home
- 4. Received day-by-day installation schedule
- 5. Structural check included
- 6. Got at least 3 quotes
- 7. Checked Google and Facebook reviews
- 8. Payment terms agreed in writing
- 9. Seen physical material samples
- 10. Electrics and plumbing planned
- 11. Ventilation / extraction discussed
- 12. Full specification document received

About DPL Interiors

We've been designing and installing kitchens, bathrooms, and bedrooms in Telford for over 25 years. Same family. Same standards. Same certified fitting team on every project.

We created this guide because we believe informed homeowners make better decisions — whether they choose us or not.

If you'd like to discuss your project, we're happy to chat. No pressure. No sales tactics. Just honest advice from people who've been doing this for a quarter of a century.

Get in Touch

Facebook: facebook.com/telfordkitchens

Phone: [Your phone number here]

Get other quotes. Check our reviews. We'll still be here when you're ready.

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