

CABINET RENOVATION CHEAT SHEET



RESURFACING

REPLACEMENT

REFACING



Overall
Cost

- Least expensive

- Most expensive
- Requires removal and replacement of sink, countertop, cabinets and often flooring and backsplash

- Half the cost of full box replacement
- Twice the cost of resurfacing



Installation
Speed

- Fastest
(can be done in one day)

- Slowest
- Takes time to demo old cabinets, install new cabinets, reinstall countertops, paint walls and repair/replace flooring

- Fast
- It generally takes one day to paint existing cabinet boxes and half a day to install new doors and drawer fronts



Resulting
Look

- Newly painted surface on old cabinets
- Can't create a wood grain finish
- Limited to the shape of the existing doors

- Wide variety of looks and quality available at a wide range of costs

- A variety of styles, colors, door shapes and wood grain finishes are available



Installation
Cons

- Often smelly
- Doesn't easily allow hinge replacement
- Requires more ongoing maintenance than refacing or full box replacements

- More construction waste to dispose of
- Often multiple trades involved

- Cabinet interiors remain unchanged, unless they are also painted



Especially
Suitable
When

- Budget is super tight
- This is often determined by the rent potential of the project location

- Cabinet boxes aren't structurally sound

- Countertops are high quality
- Old hinges are face mounted or otherwise unfashionable
- Existing cabinet doors are damaged or have an unfashionable shape
- Cabinets are structurally sound



Less
Suitable
When

- Door shape is unfashionable (e.g. slab doors with j-pull)
- Existing finish is peeling off (whether paint, vinyl or some other finish)
- Old doors are water damaged, swollen or falling apart
- A high-end look is desired

- Countertops are high quality
- Flooring or backsplash would be difficult to patch or replace

- Old cabinets are not structurally sound