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### THREE BIRDS' TOP TIPS

**1 Paint:** Paint all the walls before the cabinetry goes in. It's better for your painter and helps to protect the cabinets from paint splatter. For cabinetry, we prefer a satin finish, which is easy to clean and doesn't show fingerprints.

**2 Taps:** Tapware is not a place to scrimp – but expensive taps aren't necessarily worth their price tag either. We suggest choosing mid-range tapware by a reputable brand that offers a warranty.

**3 Flooring:** If you're installing new flooring, ask your cabinet maker, carpenter and flooring company if it should go in before or after the cabinetry. There isn't one rule – it all depends on the type of flooring and your cabinet maker's preference. We've done it both ways in previous renovations.



LEARN ONLINE

If you're a first-time renovator or looking to build from scratch, sign up for an online course with Three Birds Renovations' Reno School and learn how to reno like a pro.

[therenoschool.com](https://therenoschool.com)



*Colour Tip*

If you're nervous about going all the way with colour in your kitchen, you can limit it to just the island and use white everywhere else, as Three Birds have done in the kitchen pictured here.

## KITCHENS

"It's true that kitchen renos are one of the most challenging. But they're also the most satisfying when you experience the amazing results, day in, day out," says Lana Taylor of Three Birds Renovations.

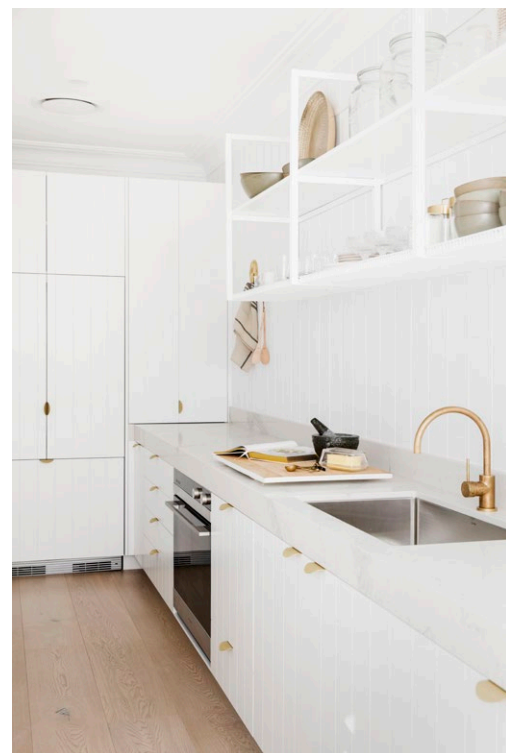
First up, decide who'll lead the work. The DIY option is a good way to keep costs down, says Lana, as long as you're prepared for the responsibility: "You will be the person that coordinates all the tradies, and you'll purchase most of the fixtures and fittings."

The most common route is to hire a kitchen company. "They can create 3D drawings of your desired kitchen and give you expert advice. Be aware that some offer a full service and will

manage all the tradies; others like to stick to the cabinetry component exclusively." If you're in the midst of other renovations, you can also enlist your builder to lead the kitchen installation, although they'll often engage a kitchen company to do much of the work.

When designing, the Three Birds team recommends prioritising your everyday lifestyle over what looks nice for occasional visitors. Don't tuck your sink out of sight if it suits you better to position it centrally, where you can face everyone and watch TV while you're washing up!

Be guided by your own needs when selecting cabinetry. "If it's your forever home, polyurethane (2-Pac) is the bee's knees of custom cabinetry and usually the most expensive option," Lana explains. "A renovation for profit might be better to use the more affordable vinyl option (a popular finish for flat-pack kitchens)."



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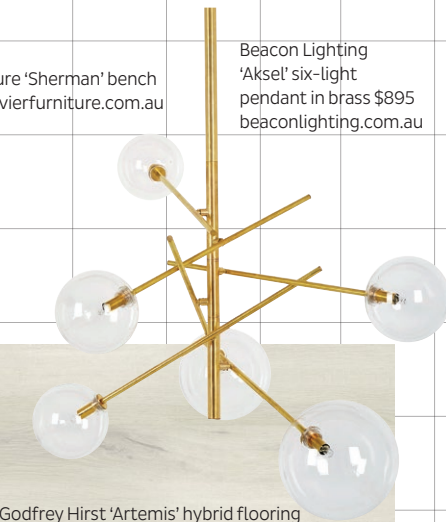


Caesarstone 'Statuario Maximus' from \$1,100 per m<sup>2</sup> installed [caesarstone.com.au](https://caesarstone.com.au)

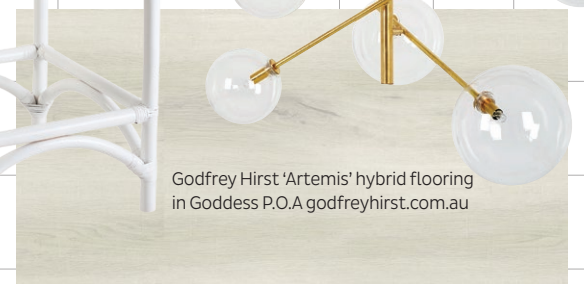
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