When is a permit required?

A permit is required when any of the following work is done: removal and/or alteration of walls, rearrangement of cabinet layout, relocation of appliances/plumbing fixtures, removal/replacement of cabinets, countertops, plumbing fixtures, fixed-in-place appliances, and changes to lighting, receptacle outlets, and/or switches.

Exception: replacement of movable appliances (freestanding slide in range or refrigerator) in the same location, new flooring, wall paint, cabinet re-finishing, or cabinet hardware are considered maintenance and do not require a permit.

Kitchen remodels shall comply with the following adopted codes:

- 2019 California Residential Code (CRC)
- 2019 California Electrical Code (CEC)
- 2019 California Plumbing Code (CPC)
- 2019 California Mechanical Code (CMC)
- 2019 California Energy Code (CEnC)
- 2019 California Green Building Standards Code (CALGREEN)
- Gilroy Municipal Code

The following outlines the minimum code requirements for residential kitchen plumbing, mechanical and electrical. It is intended to serve only as a guide to successfully complete a kitchen remodel project, each project is unique, and other requirements may be enforced as applicable.

Plumbing

- Copper water lines shall be Type L or better. [CPC 604.3] No Type M allowed. [Gilroy Amendment see Chapter 6 of Municipal Code]
- Hot water valve shall be on the left side. [CPC 417.5]
- Hot water shall be limited to a maximum temperature of 120° F. [CPC 408.3]
- Fixtures with slip joint connections shall be accessible or provided with a 12”x12” access panel to make such connections accessible for inspection and repair. [CPC 402.10]
- Metal Collars (escutcheons) must be installed where openings have been made in walls for the passage of pipes. [CPC 312.12.2]
- Plumbing fixtures in contact with wall, floor, or counters shall be caulked to provide a watertight seal. [CPC 402.2]
- Kitchen sinks shall have a waste outlet and tailpiece of 1-½ inch diameter minimum. [CPC 420.4]
- Kitchen faucets shall have a maximum flow rate of 1.8 GPM. [CALGREEN 4.303.1.4.4]
- Dishwashers shall discharge indirectly through an air gap fitting into a wye branch fitting on the tailpiece of a kitchen sink, or connected into a garbage disposal. [CPC 414.3]
Dishwashers and refrigerators with water dispensers shall be provided with a water hammer arrestor. [CPC 690.10]

New sections of gas piping shall be pressure tested and inspected in accordance with [CPC 1213.0]

Each appliance connected to gas piping shall have an accessible manual shutoff valve within 6 feet of the appliance it serves; the valve shall be upstream of the flex connector. The valve shall be permitted to be installed under or behind the appliance as long as the appliance can be removed without removing the shutoff valve. [CPC 1212.6]

**Mechanical**

- There shall be a minimum of 30 inches vertical clearance from range cooktop to combustible materials above. The clearance may be reduced to 24 inches from cooktop to a ventilating hood, or listed venting microwave installed per manufacturer’s instructions. [CMC 920.3.2]

- Domestic ranges shall be served by an airtight ducted range hood equipped with a backdraft damper that closes when not in use. [CMC 504.1] Exception: A ductless range hood installed per manufacturer's installation instructions.

- Ducts for domestic range hood shall be of metal smooth wall type (no flex). [CPC 504.3] Exception: Listed down-draft domestic range may be vented with Schedule 40 PVC.

- Terminate hood exhaust outlet outdoors, a minimum of 3 feet form windows or similar openings, 10 feet from a forced air inlet, and 3 feet from the property line. [CMC 502.2.1]

- The exhaust termination opening shall be protected by a corrosion resistant screen with openings ¼ - ½ inch maximum. [CMC 502.1]

**Electrical**

- A kitchen shall be served by 2 or more 20-ampere branch circuits for wall/floor outlets, countertop outlets (for small appliances), refrigeration equipment and associated rooms such as pantry or dining room. [CEC 210.11(C)(1) & 210.52(B)]

- Countertop outlets shall be installed so there is a receptacle outlet within 24 inches from any point along the counter/wall line. [CEC 210.52(C)(1)] Exception: receptacle outlets not required on wall behind a range/cooktop or sink.

- Island and peninsular countertop spaces that are larger than 12 inches x 24 inches shall have at least one receptacle outlet.

- Outlet location: countertop outlets shall be installed no more than 20 inches above the countertop, not more than 12 inches below, or assemblies listed for use in a counter may be installed in the countertop (pop-up outlet). [CEC 210.52(C)(5)]

- All 15- and 20-ampere receptacle outlets serving kitchen countertops, or within 6 feet of inside edge of a sink shall be provided with Ground-Fault Circuit-Interrupter Protection for Personnel (GFCI). [CEC210.8(A)(6&7)]

- All 15- and 20-ampere branch circuits supplying outlets or devices in kitchens shall have Arc-Fault Circuit-Interrupter Protection (AFCI) [CEC 210.12(A)]
- Built in dishwashers are allowed to be cord/attachment plug connected as long as the cord is no longer than 6.5 feet, the outlet is accessible and located in the space adjacent to the dishwasher. [CEC 422.16(B)(2)]

- Range hoods are allowed to be cord/attachment plug connected as long as the cord is no longer than 4 feet, the receptacle is accessible, and it is supplied by an individual branch circuit. [CEC 422.12(B)(4)]

- Under-cabinet lighting shall be controlled separately from ceiling installed lighting such that one can be turned on without turning on the other. [CEnC 150.0(k)(2)K]