

PRESS RELEASE

GBC Kitchen & Bath Releases Historic Rowhouse Remodeling Guide

GBC Kitchen and Bath Alexandria

October 30, 2026



ALEXANDRIA, VA - GBC Kitchen & Bath has released a remodeling guide written for owners of historic rowhouses in Old Town Alexandria. The guide, updated on October 26, 2026, covers kitchen and bathroom projects in homes where shared walls, earlier alterations and preservation review affect what can be built.

“Shared walls and past alterations in an older rowhouse are easier to plan around when they are documented before a designer draws anything,” said Esin Mills, director of operations at GBC Kitchen & Bath. The guide treats preservation review the same way.

Older rowhouses rarely match the assumptions behind a typical remodel. Homeowners can read the full rowhouse guide on the company website.

The guide asks homeowners to start from the actual building rather than its age or architectural style. It recommends documenting room dimensions, wall construction, property boundaries, openings and prior alterations, and having proposed penetrations and utility routes assessed wherever a wall is shared with a neighbor.

Preservation review receives its own section. The guide advises owners to confirm the property's designation and the full scope of work with the City of Alexandria Planning and Zoning department, including demolition, openings and any exterior changes, and to confirm building and trade permits separately. It also suggests that the written proposal state who handles applications, inspections and approval records.

For kitchens, the guide looks at rooms located in a rear addition, where changes in floor level, headroom and wall openings shape the cabinet layout. It explains that a ventilation route for the selected appliance must be assessed for the actual building, and that an existing chimney should not be treated as an approved vent path.

Bathroom planning in a rowhouse often means a small or oddly shaped footprint. The guide recommends measuring fixture access and storage before choosing products, having a plumber identify the actual pipe materials, and assessing water entry, drains and ventilation for any bathroom below grade. Where painted surfaces may be disturbed, it tells owners to ask whether EPA lead-safe renovation rules apply.

The guide also offers design ideas that respect period character, such as furniture-style vanities, layered lighting and hardware finishes that sit well against exposed brick and original millwork. It closes with a list of points to raise with any remodeler, including concealed conditions and party-wall construction.

Scheduling is the final planning topic. The guide recommends confirming delivery dates for cabinetry, appliances, tile and other critical materials before demolition begins, and identifying templating, fabrication and installation steps in the project schedule. It also asks owners to agree in writing which concealed conditions remain uncertain and who approves any change before work continues.

At GBC Kitchen & Bath , experienced installers are coordinated by one dedicated project manager from design through the final walkthrough, and completed work carries a three-year workmanship warranty described in the written terms. Homeowners can review materials and talk through a historic project at the company's Alexandria showroom on General Washington Drive.

MEDIA CONTACT

+1 703-750-1188

info@gbcd.com

5601 General Washington Dr UNIT H, Alexandria, United States