

A Blueprint to Remodeling Done Right

LIFESTYLE A remodeling project—whether a single room, whole home or somewhere in between—can be a daunting task. Building a plan with a professional can be the difference between happiness and heartbreak.



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Remodeling, whether to sell your home or make your space more livable, can bring more value and enjoyment. It can also seem challenging. A project plan will increase the success of the project by providing visibility into design specifications, cost and timeline. According to the 2015 Remodeling Impact Report, 75 percent of surveyed homeowners feel a major sense of accomplishment when they think of their completed project.

A smart plan paves the way

Consider how you live. Technology creates new demands for things like charging stations, internet access and audiovisual. Ask yourself: Do you entertain? Is your home an oasis for rest and relaxation? Do accessibility needs factor in your plan? These answers inform design decisions and support the plan for success.

New products that combine technology with energy efficient devices can enhance how you live. Incorporate smart thermostats, lighting and dimming switches and safety controls such as smart locking doors, security systems and motion detectors. All can be controlled through a single device or integrated with your smart phone.

Knowing how you will adopt new technologies saves time and headaches. It's easier to incorporate the proper wiring and components when walls are open, versus trying to retrofit near the end of the project.

“Lessen the chance for errors that may jeopardize the safety of your family and friends by using a qualified professional.”

Remodel in stages

As baby boomers age, design decisions may include accessibility requirements or ways to make a safer, more functional space. Known as “universal design,” this process begins with a needs assessment to evaluate the best ways to incorporate plumbing and electrical applications and ensure building codes

adhere to the Americans with Disabilities Act to ultimately serve homeowners.

Ease the burden on finances by remodeling in stages. A series of smaller projects can be more manageable and easier on families. For larger remodeling, a plan is essential and can be the difference between completing the project on time or being delayed with what could have been easily avoidable hurdles. In addition to having a plan, make sure you hire a quality professional.

The do-it-yourself route may be tempting but using a professional remodeler ensures your project will be done right—the first time. Lessen the chance for errors that may jeopardize the safety of your family and friends by using a qualified professional.

In addition to referrals, find a remodeler through a national association. Working with a professional who adheres to a code of ethics and who takes continuing education on advancements in product, technique and local codes takes the pressure off so you can focus on what matters most: creating a happy home.

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Which of the following should not be used as traction for an icy driveway, sidewalk, or steps?

- Cat litter
- Salt
- Sand

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“This generation has been raised to believe everyone progresses together, but eventually you should reach out and grab something that will make you invaluable.” - Sarah Robb O'Hagan



10 Ways to Ensure Your Home Renovation Pro Is a Perfect Fit

If you are considering a home remodeling project, the most important decision you have to make is the right professional home remodeler for the job.

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