

10 Essential Things You MUST Know Before Starting a Remodel!

#5 May Surprise You!



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When it comes to remodeling your home, whether it be a bathroom, kitchen, basement or even a whole home remodel, there are 10 essential things that you absolutely must know before you get started to be sure that you get the best possible result!

So many people dive right into a remodel without a complete game plan and end up spending more money than they needed, falling behind schedule, dealing with issues with contractors or end up just hating the end result.

So, to help you avoid these potential pit falls, we decided to put together this guide to make sure you know the 10 essential things that you must have before getting started.

Trust us, reading this will save you thousands of dollars and dozens of hours of wasted time or unnecessary hardship.

So, let's go ahead and dive in!

What you like

What design style do you like? You absolutely must know this before you take the first step because it is one thing to want to change a space, but a whole different thing to know what you want to turn it into.

Are the changes you want just cosmetic (e.g., new cabinets, counters, and appliances) or structural (e.g., reconfiguring your space or knocking down walls).

Once you know this then you need to decide on the type of style you like, is it modern? Contemporary? Traditional? Etc...

Then, once you know this you need to dive into looking at examples and thinking hard about the styles you like and what you really like about them.

Not only are you going to have to understand it yourself, but you also need to be able to communicate it to the project manager/contractor that you work with to create your new space. Without clarity you may not end up with the result that you are after.

Now, some remodeling companies may have designers that you can work with to get that clarity and see the space before its even built which allows you to see the end result before it's even built so that you can know what you are working with before you even getting started.

Your Budget

Next, you need to have a general budget that you are working with and it needs to be realistic for the type of work that is going to be done.

The best way to ultimately come up with a budget is to work with your contractor is to tell them what you are wanting, get an idea of what it costs and go back and forth until you come up with something that fits your budget and dreams.

The worst thing you can do is have too small of a budget and too high of expectations causing you to get a final result that you aren't happy with.

Potential Return on Investment

If your main goal of remodeling is to increase the value of your home so that you have the highest return when you sell, then you should do research into how to get the maximum return on investment (ROI).

A couple of things that have an impact on increase value include:

- Increasing available square footage in the home.
- Updating appliances
- Focusing on modern and in -style design trends
- And adding functional and long lasting materials and appliances with will last the new owners for some time after the purchase of the home!

If you're remodeling with the goal of selling make sure that you let the contractor or project manager that you choose for your project know so that they can help you make the best decisions possible!

Unknown Costs May Arise and You Need to Be Prepared

With every project there are almost always unknown expenses that arise.

Whether it with your local city or county, additional material costs, changes you want as the project progresses or something else it is difficult to get through the entire project on budget.

There is always some level of a margin of error.

Make sure that you discuss all aspects of your remodel with your project manager so that you can be sure to come up with a wholistic budget and plan for an appropriate margin of error to make sure that you have appropriate expectations and hopefully can even come in under budget!

You Need a Project Manager

Many people spend a lot of money on project management, designers, design assistants, and more, all of which are meant to help you but if you aren't careful you can end up with too many fingers in the pot.

All this does is lead to overcomplication and just a mess that can lead to project falling behind and going over budget.

The best way to have a stress-free remodel is to work with a single project manager who is like your Liaison between you and everyone that will be doing work on your home.

This allows you to focus only on the things you need to like design, fixtures, and decor while the project manager can keep track of everyone that will be working on your project as efficiently and cost-effectively as possible.

What Permits You Need

Depending on the details of your remodel, you may need a building permit.

You'll probably need one if your remodel involves something large like changing the footprint of your house, building an addition, or altering a load bearing wall.

If you're simply adding cabinets and putting in a new countertop, you won't need one.

It's smart to call your local government's building or engineering department to double check.

However, if you start working with your contractor early enough, they will often do this for you to make sure that it all gets done right and up to spec, as well as saving you the most money in the process!

Find a Contractor You Trust

We're not talking about doing just a cursory audit of online reviews or references, although those are helpful.

You have to do a full check and get proof of the following.

- Contractor's license
- Certificate of insurance for general liability and workers' comp
- Lien history
- Bond number and certification

And remember, you are going to be spending a lot of time with your contractor, as well as parting with a lot of cash and potentially a good bit of your sanity over the duration of the renovation.

Make sure you take the time to conduct in-person interviews to find both a personal and professional fit.

Some great questions to ask and things to look at include:

Google reviews
Past project images
Company age
Number of past customers

A Timeline

Renovation projects are notorious for running over schedule, often through no one's fault.

- Weather can delay projects.
- necessary materials can be on backorder.
- subcontractors can get sick.
- tricky wiring can take longer than expected.
- Or some other aspect of your project that may cause slight delays

There are many variables that go into a remodel and it is next to impossible to finish the project without a single little surprise.

It's wise to just expect there will be some delays, so plan the renovation with ample time if you have a "due date," such as house guests coming or a special trip that will take you out of town.

However, if you are working with a good project manager, they will be able to do a lot to keep your project on schedule and avoid a lot of the most common set backs.

You Need a Contract

Starting a project is the “honeymoon” phase, but you want to be prepared for the days that are less dreamy.

That’s why your contract with an outside professional needs to be specific and include the following:

- Payment schedule (make sure you never complete final payment until you are 100% satisfied)
- Timeline
- Details on all the work, down to how many cabinets are being installed and how many square feet of which tile will be laid

Not only will the document protect you, but it will also protect the contractor as well so that everyone can be sure that they are on the same page!

You Need to Plan For Living (Sometimes)

If the renovation makes your property uninhabitable for a period of time (no running water, open to the outdoors, no electricity, complete interior remodel, etc...) then you will need somewhere to live while we perfect your new space.

A couple of options include staying in your old home if you are moving, rent a home or apartment or even stay in a hotel depending on the length of time that you need to be out of the house.

A Special Offer Just For You!

If you have made it to this point then congratulations! You are now miles ahead of most homeowners who are planning a remodel.

As a result, we want to give you a very special offer that will allow you to get the ball rolling on your new remodel quickly, easily and with clarity all completely free!

We want to offer you an exclusive spot in our VIP remodeling program where you will get:

- \$1,000 Remodeling Gift Certificate.
- Free Design Consultation.
- Initial Project Permit and Design Planning and Coordination
- And more!

Usually this program is valued at \$997, however for a limited time, we are offering it for FREE!

All for free with no catch and no contracts or commitments.

[**Click Here to See If You Qualify.**](#)