

# Creating Spaces for a Lifetime of Living



Design | Build | Remodel



## 7 REMODELING DO'S AND DON'TS

One of the most challenging aspects of having work done at your home is finding the right remodeling contractor to do the job. With so many choices out there, the process might seem a bit overwhelming.

Fortunately, by performing due diligence and taking the following into consideration, you can make the best choice for your renovation needs.

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**Do think of your goals for your project.** As the client, you are the one driving the process. Before speaking with a remodeler, spend time thinking about your goals for the project, such as what it might look like, the amenities you want, and so on. If you don't know how to translate your goals into specific features or products, a design consultant or a design-build firm can provide that service.

**Do have a budget.** One of the biggest challenges of a remodeling project is staying on budget. Despite all the planning, and knowing the costs of materials, labor and design, unexpected expenses or price increases can arise. It is a good idea to have a cushion of at least ten to twenty percent.

**Do make sure your remodeler understands your living situation while they are working in your home.**

If you plan on staying in an inactive area of your home, make sure they are mindful of working hours or areas they need to stay away from. Keep children and pets away from the construction zones and remove any expensive or fragile objects so they are safe from harm.

**Do expect the unexpected.** Every remodeler will sometimes run into unforeseen problems once they open walls or when weather interferes with the project's progress. This is why you should leave a little wiggle room in your budget and timeframe.



**Don't hire a remodeler based on price alone.** A lower price may be attractive, but you may be sacrificing quality workmanship, materials or the customer service that is required when remodeling your home. **Beware of the "low-ball" bidder whose price is much lower than everyone else's.** Question the quality of the materials that will be used and the work that will be done. A very low bidder may not plan to include all the specific tasks you might expect, and may use very cheap, inexperienced labor, or second-rate materials.

**Don't underestimate the importance of good communication.** Set up a communication plan with your remodeler to go over all the details. This will help to clarify roles, set expectations and ensure messages don't get miscommunicated or lost, resulting in a mistake that could affect the success of your remodeling project.

**Don't hire door-to-door solicitors.** Not all door-to-door contractors are scammers -- but many scammers do work from door-to-door. Home improvement scams often increase in the wake of emergencies, especially violent storms such as hurricanes and tornadoes. Beware of contractors that do not have business addresses or do not live in your locality.

**Ready to get started on your home improvement project? Be sure to take enough time to check out the company, look at their work and check their references and credentials. Do not act on the spur of the moment, or jump on an offer that sounds like a fast-breaking opportunity. Find the right professional and enjoy your new, improved home.**