

# 4 Important Steps Before Starting Your Next Renovation Project

Excerpt from Lowe's How To section

Whether you're a DIY enthusiast or an expert renovator, there are several important steps you need to take before beginning any renovation project, big or small.



## 1. Create a wish list for your new space.

Try to keep in mind factors that can impact how your space is shared with others and how it will be used. In addition to personal style, consider if there are any current issues that need to be addressed, such as plumbing fixtures or space, as well as must-haves (e.g. larger shower, better lighting, etc.). It's also good to think ahead about how the space may also be used in the future.

## 2. Set your priorities.

The "must-haves" and any other items that are most important will rank at the top of your to-do list.

## 3. Start planning according to your newly prioritized wish list.

If you are working with a contractor, consider using a bid form to protect yourself and as a guide to complete specifications; it's best to ensure all details are clear and finalized. When planning your budget, make an allowance for 10% for unplanned expenses that may pop up during the demolition phase.

#### 4. Prepare for the unexpected during construction.

It's important to approach your project as a complete plan, with every step and decision worked out beforehand — from detailed drawings with dimensions to considering waste removal options, thinking these through will help to avoid costly changes. Write a project timeline and review the scope immediately following demolition; all changes and updates should also be kept in writing. If all of these steps seem overwhelming, another option is to consider hiring a project manager for much-needed support during stressful renovations.

Send us your [project ideas here](#) and we will be happy to discuss them with you and how the Bowie Bear '*Builder Block*' team can make your dreams and wishes into a reality.

