

## How to Prepare for a Remodel.

Deciding to remodel your house is a big decision and like all big decisions, it should be taken seriously.

Among other things, many people will tell you what to look for in a remodeler, how many estimates to get, and what licenses to look for. What no one seems to tell you is how to prepare to meet with the professionals who come to your house to help you take your ideas and implement them into an actual remodeling plan.



The ideal remodel and what is recommended most by Home Advisor and Houzz, is that to save money and time you contract with a design/build remodeling company. This way you get the benefit of having a professional help you to achieve your dream goals for your design and you also get the benefit of working with a licensed, insured building contractor who will work closely with the designer to make sure you get the most out of your remodel.

Know your home improvement budget but be realistic. Too many home improvement shows do not set the proper expectation for the cost of a good remodel and most of the work is DIY which is much more difficult than it seems.

Don't be afraid to give a contractor your exact budget. A good design/build contractor is there to utilize your budget in an effective way that will determine what you can get for your budget dollars. If the budget is unrealistic for the amount of design/labor and materials needed then they should be able to suggest what can be accomplished for your price range. The remodeling contractor needs to guide you toward the right-sized project to meet your budget.

Setting a budget also allows the remodeling contractor to guide you toward the correct products that are of the best quality and design to use for your project.

So what comes next?

Once your budget is set and you have contacted a builder, you should be set up with a design/estimate meeting to review your project. So before your design/estimator shows up, you need to prioritize your home remodeling project(s). Make a list of what details are most important for your remodel. Have some design ideas for the remodel and be sure your ideas are in order so you'll be able to present a clear picture of what you want during the consultation. Gather pictures to help illustrate your desires.

Try using these resources:

Magazines: Tear pictures and put together a design idea book from magazine clippings.

Houzz: Is loaded with all types of ideas for remodeling and lots of photos. You can create an account and put all of photos you like into an idea book.

Photos: Take a picture with your cell phone while out and about if something catches your eye.

Pinterest: This is another great website where you can pin pictures you like online. If you go to one of the manufacturers' websites and see an idea you like, simply pin it!

Homeowners become very stressed when they realize all the work that goes into planning a remodeling project, as there are lots of design decisions to make. Preparation is key when working with a remodeler who understands that the design process is as important as the final product.

How to prepare for your initial consultation and measurement appointment:

1. Make sure you have a specific idea of which areas in the home you want remodeled.
2. Make a wish list of the changes you want made (i.e. remove/replace flooring, cabinets, countertops, toilet, fixtures, changes to lighting, etc.)

3. Clear all areas to be measured of clutter. An estimator cannot take exact measurements if your countertops are full of appliances and clutter.
4. If you are getting an estimate for the bathroom – remove items like laundry hampers, hair dryers and other items that may be cluttering the space.
5. If your job will require changes to the tub or shower, make sure they dry and that towels and toiletries are moved to provide a clear space for measurements to be taken.
6. If you have indoor pets that may get in the way or slow down the process, put them in another room until the measurement process is finished.
7. Be flexible with your time. The more work that you are requesting, the more time it will take for measurements and design discussions.

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