



# REMODEL CHECKLIST



## IDENTIFY NEEDS

Identify things you absolutely need to have, things you would like to have and bucket list things you can add if the budget allows.

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## RESEARCH

Doing research is the fun part. Create a Pinterest board and start adding things to it so you can check price and availability when your ready to start your project.

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## BUDGET & FINANCING

Will you be going to the bank? If so, you'll want to shop for the best financing. Will you be contributing to the bottom line? What will that look like? Get your numbers in order.

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## HIRE A GENERAL CONTRACTOR

Years in business, great references, insurance and more matters when it comes to hiring a contractor. Be sure you can go into your project with confidence.

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## PERMITTING

Remodeling your home will inevitably need permitting with the city or county. Be sure you are ready to provide what is needed to get a permit, it can be a show-stopper.

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## HOA GUIDELINES

Before starting your project, check with your homeowner's association for rules and regulations from landscaping to paint colors.

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## FAMILY & PET ACCOMODATIONS

Safety and wellbeing are a necessary part of a remodeling project. Workers will be in and out of the workspace. Secure your valuables. Make sure pets have a safe place.

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## BEFORE & AFTER PICS

Get before and after pics. Your project deserves to have a light shined on it. Make sure you document all of the changes for security and peace of mind.

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## INSURANCE

Who is responsible for what? Make sure your contractor is fully insured and employees or subcontractors are properly insured as well. Contact your homeowner's insurance carrier to verify or add coverage as needed.

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## LEGAL

Make sure any contracts you sign don't leave you vulnerable to risk. If damage happens, who is responsible? Get a legal opinion when in doubt.

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## PUNCH LIST

A punch list is a walk-through you do with the GC before releasing the final project draw. Once the contractor is paid, they are finished. Be sure you are completely satisfied.

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## NOTES

Leave nothing to chance. Be sure you answer all of your questions before, during and after your project.

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## HELPFUL INFORMATION

1. Keep your eye on the prize.
  - Look at your inspiration photos when things get tough. The pain will be worth the gain. Eventually.
  - Think of it as an adventure. That may sound ridiculous, but a change in mindset can make all the difference.
2. Look for creative ways to work around your renovation.
3. Be patient!
4. Be prepared to clean. A lot.
  - Cover ducts.
  - You may have to turn off air conditioning/heating units to stop air circulating the construction dust.
  - If your renovation involves harmful fumes, you should invest in an air purifier.
5. Consider your pets and small children.
  - Prepare a safe place for them during the renovation.
  - You will need to be extra vigilant when it comes to cleaning up construction dust, etc.
  - Contractors do not provide maid service. They do a "general" clean of work areas but do not expect them to clean like a maid service. You'll need to be prepared to do a final clean or hire a service upon completion.
6. Plan your access routes.
  - Set ground rules for your trades about when and where they can enter and leave from.
  - Consider in advance where tools and materials for the renovation will be stored.
7. For kitchen renovations, set up a temporary kitchen somewhere with water access.
  - Consider using small appliances like slow cookers and toaster ovens. Or, better yet, if you're able, bbq your meals outside.
  - Access to a small fridge is helpful.
  - You may consider disposable plates and utensils.
8. Have a retreat area. This is so important for your mental health during a home renovation.
  - Somewhere clean.
  - Away from the noise of the renovation.
  - A place you can relax and destress.
9. Discourage visitors during your renovation. Visitors may add to your stress level. Unless your visitors are there to help.