

■ Home Remodel Checklist

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Planning Stage

Before swinging a hammer, a solid plan is crucial. This phase helps you define goals, prepare a budget, and get a sense of scope and feasibility.

- Define your renovation goals — Consider what you want to improve: layout, style, function, or all three.
- Establish a realistic budget — Account for labor, materials, permits, and unexpected costs.
- Research contractors — Read reviews, ask for referrals, and compare quotes.
- Check local regulations/permits — Understand zoning laws and HOA requirements.

Design Phase

Now bring your vision to life. In this creative stage, collaborate with professionals to select materials and draft plans.

- Create design inspiration board — Use Pinterest or magazines to compile your vision.
- Work with a designer/architect — Develop a floor plan and ensure your ideas are feasible.
- Select materials and finishes — Choose paint, fixtures, flooring, cabinetry, etc.
- Plan layout and functionality — Focus on workflow, lighting, and usability.

Pre-Construction

Time to get logistics in order. Lock in your team, finalize design, and order materials to avoid delays.

- Obtain necessary permits — Your contractor may handle this, but confirm what's needed.
- Finalize contract with contractor — Get everything in writing, including timeline and scope.
- Schedule work start date — Ensure it fits your personal and seasonal calendar.
- Order materials/appliances — Some items have long lead times, so plan ahead.

During Construction

The dust flies, but progress is made! Stay on top of updates and be prepared for quick decisions.

- Monitor progress regularly — Walk the site and compare to the plan.
- Stay in communication with contractor — Set regular check-ins.
- Make timely decisions on any changes — Avoid costly delays.
- Ensure worksite remains safe — Especially important if living in the home.

Post-Construction

Celebrate the finish! But first, complete inspections, address punch list items, and secure documentation.

- Inspect completed work — Walk through with your contractor to spot any issues.
- Create a punch list of final tasks — Small fixes and touch-ups to complete the job.
- Receive warranty documentation — Keep a file for appliances and workmanship guarantees.
- Leave a review for your contractor — Help others and reward good work.

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