



8 things to ask yourself before you call a home remodeler.

Someone once said that “an educated consumer is our best customer.”

That’s true. And if you’re considering a home renovation, taking the time to ask yourself the following questions can save you a lot of aggravation later on.

Doing a little homework—before you pick up the phone—will not only help you narrow your search for the best firm for your project, but also will help you work better with whomever you select.

1

Why am I even doing this?

Think about what you like about the house—what made you decide to buy it in the first place. You have to like the house enough to make a commitment to bring it up to the next level.

2

Am I going to stay here for at least five years?

Renovation is an investment that pays back in two ways: financial and emotional.

You cash in immediately on the enjoyment of a beautiful, comfortable home that you helped create. That's the emotional payoff. The real estate portion of your investment (the financial) needs time to accrue value. A home that has been thoughtfully renovated is worth more at sale than an unimproved home in the same neighborhood.

3

Do houses in my neighborhood hold value over time?

Get the advice of a real estate professional on this one. Historically, how much do property values grow over a five- or ten-year period in your community? How much has your property value increased since you purchased? This can give you a reasonable sense of how much to invest in improvements.



4 How much should I expect to spend?

Sooner or later, you need to have a figure in mind. Sooner is better.

Talk to relatives, friends, neighbors or co-workers in your community who have gone through a renovation of similar size within the last two years and get a feel for what a comparable project cost others.



5 How will I finance this project?

This is an obvious question. The answer may not be so obvious. So think about it. Make sure you can get the money you will need.



6 What are the most important parts of my plan?

If your list is a long one, chances are the budget required is going to go beyond your comfort zone.

So choose one item from your list—the one you can't live without. That is the heart of your project. Your budget begins there.



7

Who should I call? Part One

You want to call the right kind of company. And it's going to help to understand what the differences are.

Service contractors do repairs, maintenance and replacements (roof, window, siding, etc).

General contractors specialize in construction only.

Design/build firms (should) have architectural designers and construction personnel on staff—which means they have the people on hand to guide you through a challenging, complex renovation project.

8

Who should I call? Part Two

Talk to friends, neighbors, relatives again. Ask your realtor. What companies have they heard of? What's their reputation? Have they been around for at least 10 years. Are they creative? Do they care about their clients? Take a look at the company website, blog or Facebook page.

If you're going to trust this kind of work to someone, make sure you know everything there is to know.

Getting yourself totally up to speed and informed prior to starting a home renovation project is important, but it isn't difficult. If there is anything we can do to help you along with your project, please don't hesitate to call.

We're confident that the more you know about home renovation, the better we're going to look.