



Surviving a Remodelling Project

Homeowners invest large sums into improving their homes to make them more comfortable living spaces or to increase their odds of selling quickly.

The Remodeling Futures Program at the Joint Center for Housing Studies of Harvard University predicted U. S. spending on home renovations and repairs to peak at \$327 billion in 2017.

Whether one is doing a large renovation or a small remodel, life may be turned upside down during the project.

Furniture may be moved out of the room, walls may be demolished, water or electricity may be turned off, and appliances may be missing or not hooked up. Home

improvements often drum up dust and disarray.

Such projects can try the patience of any homeowner, and things may get worse before they get better.

Even though remodeling can be taxing, the end result is often worth it. Here's how to look forward to the silver lining and come out unscathed.

DISCUSS THE PROJECT

All family members should be in agreement before the first hammer is swung. Decide on as many details as you can ahead of time and have a firm plan in place.

Establish back-up choices for tiles or color schemes in case the items you want are out of stock. Trying to make decisions under duress may result in bad choices.

ONE PROJECT AT A TIME

It's tempting to want to improve as much as possible at once to maximize motivation and renovation materials. However, having no place in which to escape the mess can elevate stress levels.

Do not think about renovating kitchens and bathrooms all at once, or you will not have any working fixtures for tasks like washing up.

EVERYTHING IN ITS PLACE

Before demolition even begins, have building materials bought and stored, contractors and subcontractors lined up, and see what you can do to minimize the time workers need to spend in your home.

Make sure your money is set aside or financing is in place before starting your project.

EXPECT DELAYS

In a world where things move at lightning speeds, renovations have not gotten the memo. Home projects take lots of time and will likely take longer if you are doing the work yourself in your free time.

Build lots of extra time into the project so you are not disappointed when delays happen — even when you've done your best to avoid them.

ESCAPE ZONE

Construction environments can be messy, loud, smelly, and a host of other unsavory adjectives. The chaos that ensues when life is turned upside down can be overwhelming, particularly for the person who spends the most time in the home while work is being done.

Build escape moments into the plan and make sure everyone else at home is on board. During the real grind of the project, a night or two at a hotel may be a welcome respite.

Following these simple guidelines can help make sure that your relationships turn out as well as your remodelling project.

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