

Essential Tools for Every Home

Home renovation projects can be both exciting and tricky. Do-it-yourselfers are inspired by designs showcased in magazines, websites and their own communities. When DIY enthusiasts see a design they like, it's understandable that they may want to emulate these looks at home.

Remodeling is one of the larger DIY undertakings, and it goes beyond simple carpentry. Considering demolition, reconstruction, electrical, plumbing, and masonry work may be part of the DIY package, homeowners who are thinking about renovations must first stock up on the tools and other supplies of the trade.

Basic tools like brooms, shop-vacs, hammers, screwdrivers, wrenches and pliers can be found in almost every house. But having a few more of the right tools can mean the difference between a job well done and a job that needs to be redone.

- **CROWBAR OR PRYBAR:** Before you can put in new construction, you might have to get your hands dirty with some demolition. Crowbars or prybars can be used to pry up wood slats, remove nails or remove old decking.

- **TOOL POUCH:** A tool and fastener pouch gives DIYers a place other than their pockets to store fasteners and hand tools. Pouches can be attached to tool belts for added storage capacity.

- **STUD FINDER:** Invest in a more fool-proof method of locating studs behind drywall then knocking on the wall. Stud finders can provide a picture of studs, pipes and other hidden items inside an entire length of wall. This is essential to driving nails where they belong and can also prevent sending fasteners into wires or nearby plumbing.



- **LEVEL:** A level is an essential tool for everyone from casual decorators to more involved renovators. Whether hanging pictures or ensuring molding is parallel, levels are must-have tools for DIYers.

- **SAFETY GLASSES:** Invest in a pair of safety glasses so no one working on a project deals with obstructed vision. Safety glasses also provide ample eye protection.

- **EXTENSION CORDS:** If power tools are part of the renovation picture, extension cords can safely extend power where it is needed. Be sure to invest in a gauge that is large enough to handle the amperage of your most powerful tool.

- **MEASURING TAPE:** The “measure twice, cut once” mantra is key to home improvements. To measure accurately each and every time, no tool chest is complete without a sturdy measuring tape.

- **LADDER VARIETIES:** Home improvements aren't always at ground level. Purchase ladders of various heights so you can safely reach various areas of the home and avoid injury. Step stools, a step ladder and an extension ladder all have their purposes on the job.

- **POWER DRILL:** No tool is used more than a power drill/driver. It should be included on every homeowner's list of essentials. Add a small set of drill bits and driver accessory parts and you are on your way to DIY freedom.

An advertisement for Mills County General Store. The background shows a person's legs in blue jeans with various tools in their pockets, including a green measuring tape and a red level. A hand is holding a yellow and black DeWalt power drill. The text "Every Tool for Every Job" is written in large, bold, red letters with a white outline. Below this, a red oval contains the store's name "Mills County General Store" in white, stylized font, next to a white outline of the state of Texas with a tree inside. At the bottom, the phone number "325-648-2515" and email "mcgs@centex.net" are listed, along with the store's hours "Open Mon. - Sat. 7am - 6pm" and location "In Goldthwaite".

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