

Tips for a Successful Remodel

- **Hire a contractor who listens to you.**
They should hear your concerns, answer your questions, and cover all aspects of the remodeling process.
- **Establish good communication from the beginning.**
Realize that this is a reciprocal process and your involvement is crucial to the success of the project.
- **Be comfortable with the contractor.**
You should feel free to ask for help when you need it and the contractor should be happy to assist, no matter how many times you request the information.
- **Change orders need to be handled.**
Ask the contractor how they handle change orders. Make sure they are open and agreeable to last minute changes. Realize that these will affect your budget and schedule.
- **Review the contract closely.**
Assure that all conditions of the remodel are covered and understood. Know that items not mentioned in the contract will not be included in the scope of the work or price. These items will be added on. Keep a copy of the contract and refer to it throughout the remodel.
- **Agree on the start date, schedule, and desired end date.**
- **Request written correspondence.**
This is vital for the contract, change orders, and additional requests so there is no misunderstanding.
- **Be flexible.**
There are times when products arrive late, schedules need to change, weather is unpredictable, and something is delayed.
- **View your contractor as a professional.**
Professionals are working on your remodel and they should have skill, pride in their work, and a desire to produce an exceptional result. If something does not seem right, ask so it can be explained or changed.

The Pre-Construction Meeting and Checklist

A pre-construction meeting and checklist will set up the expectations for the homeowner and rules while working in the home. Each owner has different requirements, and the conscientious contractor will work hard to accommodate your needs, such as working around certain days and times, where the pets are located, being aware of those who are sensitive to strong smells, etc. In addition, the pre-construction checklist will direct you on your responsibilities, including what areas need to be cleaned out and what to expect



regarding dust. There should be a place for each party to sign and a copy given to the homeowner for their records.