

GOLDEN RULES OF RENOVATION

CHECKLIST

Canadian
Home Builders'
Association



- ✓ **WE KNOW WHAT WE WANT.**
Take the time to develop a firm plan. Begins with the fundamentals - what do you need and how you want your renovated home to look, feel and work for you and your family. Once you have a clear idea of the big picture, your renovator will help you work out all the details.
- ✓ **WE HAVE A REALISTIC BUDGET.**
Decide as early as possible how much money you want to spend – this allows you and your renovator to focus on the work that is doable within that budget. Experienced renovators can provide sound cost advice and recommendations. Sit down with your lender and discuss the amount you can reasonably afford and the most suitable financing options. Remember that your budget should cover everything that may arise from the renovation, including such items as new drapery, blinds, furniture and appliances.
- ✓ **WE'VE PLANNED FOR THE LONG TERM.**
Thinking ahead avoids short-term renovations that may need to be redone in the future. Discuss your short- and long-term goals openly with your renovator. Professional renovators can conduct a thorough inspection of your home and offer suggestions for the most effective sequencing of work over a period of time.
- ✓ **WE'LL PROTECT OURSELVES.**
A written contract spells out the agreement between you and your renovator and describes your renovation in detail. Professional renovators also carry workers' compensation, liability insurance and any licenses required by your province—hiring someone without these can end up costing you much more in the end, not less.
- ✓ **WE WON'T JEOPARDIZE THE QUALITY OF OUR RENOVATION BY COMPROMISING ON THE QUALITY OF PRODUCTS OR MATERIALS.**
If it's worth doing, it's worth doing well, and that means using products that offer the right combination of performance, durability and aesthetics. Experienced renovators can help you choose the best products within your budget.
- ✓ **WE WON'T CHOOSE A RENOVATOR ON PRICE ALONE.**
While it is always tempting to go for the lowest price, you need to consider the implications of doing so. Does the renovator understand what's involved in your project and have the necessary experience? Will the renovator offer a warranty on the work? Will the renovator still be in business if you need to call back? And most importantly: is your renovator providing you a full contract with all the pricing elements—get it in writing!
- ✓ **WE WON'T BUY FROM A DOOR-TO-DOOR SALESPERSON WITHOUT CAREFULLY CHECKING OUT THE COMPANY.**
Before you enter into any kind of agreement, contact your [local Home Builders' Association](#) to see if the company is a member - membership is an indication of professionalism. Also check with the Better Business Bureau to see if anyone has lodged a complaint against the company.

