



MATT POWERS
CUSTOM HOMES & RENOVATIONS

Toolbox



Pre-Planning Steps

The National Association of the Remodeling Industry (NARI), “The Voice of the Remodeling Industry”, offers these steps to keep in mind when planning a remodeling project.

The first step to take is pre-planning, which can be started by making two lists about the room that you want to remodel: things that you like and things you dislike. Then write out:

- Features you wish you could have
- Features that you want
- Features that you need for the new room
- Possible color swatches
- Who will be using the room
- What the room will be used for when the project is complete

NARI suggests that homeowners who want to start a project by July should start in January. “Finding the right design, choosing a professional remodeler and securing the necessary financing for a home improvement project can sometimes take months,” says Julius Lowenberg, a past President of NARI. Also, your remodeler may not be able to begin work immediately if they are currently working on another project. Most quality remodelers book out months ahead and often up to a year.

After pre-planning, you will want to meet with your remodeler. They will take a walk through your home to get a feel for the traffic flow in the home and find out where the home’s mechanical systems are located. Tell them everything that you want from the list that you made during your pre-planning and be prepared to tell them what your budget is for the project.

From this preliminary meeting, the remodeler will take some time to draw up the plans. Some remodelers have architects or designers on staff, which is called

a “design/build”. When the plans are ready, you will be asked to review and make revisions to the plans and make a deposit to begin work. The final plans will include an outline of the job including the materials, products, remodeler’s notes, finish details and pre-priced options and upgrades.

Your remodeler may give you a timeline that outlines the steps in the remodeling project. Don’t rely solely

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on this timeline because several variables can have an impact on the length of the project, such as availability of special-order items or materials. It is important to maintain constant communication with the remodeler so you can understand any changes that may take place in the schedule.

Once you sign the contract to begin the job, you have three days to change your mind. This is called your legal “right of rescission”. After three days, your remodeler will organize schedules, order materials and apply for the needed permits. Arrange another meeting with your remodeler just to go over the details so both of you are clear on what is about to happen.