

# The Ultimate Home Remodel Checklist

Everything you need to get started with your  
home remodeling project.



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# Introduction

Getting started with a remodeling project can be a challenge. It's not as easy as simply knowing you're ready for a change, or that you're looking for something new.

You need to know what you want, how much you're willing to spend, and the best way to combine those often competing aspects of the project.

Starting with a wish list of the most important and desired components of any remodeling project provides you with a vision of where you want to end up. That may be limited by your budget, but you'll be able to prioritize by knowing what's essential and what's a like-to have.

You also need to find the right contractor to work with. Don't assume you'll see the same end result or enjoy the same experience with any company. Do your research, ask the right questions, and ensure the contractor you choose is the right fit for your project.

Then there are the often-overlooked logistics of a home remodeling or renovation project. Know what to expect and plan in advance so you're not caught off guard when things come up.

# Create a Wish List

*It's time to dream big!*

There's always room to scale back an idea later on. It's actually easier to whittle down a big vision in order for it to mesh with a feasible budget and other restrictions than it is to come up with a basic plan and add details as you go.

Now is the time to make a wish list of everything you'd love to see. Make it as long and as comprehensive as you like, and leave no idea unexplored.

Of course, your wish list can vary greatly depending on what room or area you're remodeling. And each person will have his or her own wish list, too, which is why it's important to create yours from scratch, rather than using someone else's.

To get started, ask yourself what the biggest problem is with the existing room or space, or the number one reason you're remodeling in the first place.

Then ask yourself how you would ideally like to use that room. What type of features will help get you to that end result? Envision your home and your lifestyle, not just in the immediate future, but also in five or ten years. How will the project help you accomplish this?

Let's face it, your 25-point wish list may never be 100 percent complete. So, once you have your master wish list, it's time to prioritize it. Here's a simple way to break it down:

**1**

**What is the number one, must-have for this project?**

**2**

**What are the top three items that would make you most happy to have at the end of the project?**

**3**

**What are the remaining wish list items that would be nice to have, but wouldn't necessarily be a deal breaker to go without?**

# Establish Your Budget

The part of the remodeling process that most people dread is the budget. How much is this project going to cost? What can you afford? Will your expectations match up with your budget?

Many homeowners underestimate how much their dream project is going to cost. That's why it's important to be realistic.

The main elements that impact your budget include:

- ***The size and scope of your project***
- ***The type of materials used***
- ***Appliances***
- ***Plumbing and electrical work***
- ***Structural changes***
- ***Age and condition of the home***
- ***Overall craftsmanship and quality***

Don't forget to plan for unexpected costs, too. Estimates are "estimates" for a reason, and sometimes, even with the best intentions, unexpected expenses come up.



# Find the Right Contractor for the Job

You have your wish list and your budget. Now what?  
Time to find the right contractor.

So, who's going to be right for you? Unfortunately, there's no easy answer here. Some contractors will have capabilities, concepts, and costs that are more in line with certain homeowners. It's more about finding a contractor that will work well with you, your wish list, and your personality.

Continue on to the next couple pages as we dive into this a little deeper.



# Research

It's important to take the time to look around and do your research. Investigate a few different companies in your local area who you feel may be aligned with what you're seeking. Be sure to look at their scope of services, their overall process for completing a project, and examples of previous work similar in nature to your vision. If you can, reach out to suppliers and subcontractors that have worked with the contractor to get their opinions on how the company handles projects and timelines.

Receiving a direct referral or recommendation from a trusted friend, neighbor, or family member is great. They'll be able to speak to the quality of the finished project and the process of working with the contractor.

## Interview

Don't limit yourself to only looking online. Use that as a starting point to begin narrowing down the selection. From there, speak with several different contractors. Here are a few questions you may want to ask:

- ***Are you properly licensed and insured?***
- ***Do you have references you can provide?***
- ***How long have you been in business?***
- ***How many projects have you completed that are similar to mine?***
- ***How many projects do you work on at once?***
- ***Will you be able to meet my budget and deadline?***
- ***What is your policy for job site cleanliness?***
- ***What happens when I can't get a hold of you?***
- ***Can I visit a current job site?***

Overall, does a particular contractor seem like an upfront, honest individual you can trust with your project, your money, and your home?

Will you enjoy working with them, and do you think they have a good sense of what you're looking for and how they'll be able to accomplish it?

## ***Estimates***

Of course, you may wish to receive bids or estimates from several different contractors. You want to ensure that each bid deals with the exact same scope of work and specifications so you can directly and fairly compare them.

Some contractors may try to hide certain costs, or may fail to explain how they arrived at particular totals. So be sure to ask about anything you don't understand, and ensure you receive clear answers.

Conversely, estimates that seem too cheap, or too good to be true, may end up being just that. The contractor could be cutting some corners with the quality of the project, the time he takes, and his craftsmanship, or the grade of materials he's using.





# Create Your Timeline

Different projects will require different amounts of time to complete. There's more to it than simply getting the contractor into the house to get the job done.

You have to consider both the amount of time the contractor will actually need to do the work in the house, as well as the overall completion time of a project from start to finish. This includes hiring, planning, acquiring permits, and ordering materials.

It may take a while to interview and hire the right contractor for your job. You may also have to wait until their schedule allows time for your project. High quality contractors can be booked weeks, or even months in advance. However, the right fit is always worth the wait.



# Additional Considerations

Many homeowners get caught off guard with some of the logistical considerations of a large project. It's important to plan and prepare for these so that it doesn't happen to you.

Make the necessary arrangements and consider how you'll deal with the project and the accessibility or livability of your home during the process. Here are a few factors to consider:

- ***What hours of the day and days of the week will the contractor be in your home?***
- ***How does that fit into your work schedule, your kids' routines, and the rest of your life?***
- ***Does your neighborhood have a window of restricted hours for noisy construction projects?***
- ***Do you have a pet? Will you need to adjust it's normal schedule in order to keep it out of harms way?***

Most contractors should be able to work around your schedule to suit your needs and your lifestyle. As with all other factors, consider how that affects the project's completion date.

For large projects, like total home renovations or exterior additions, you may want to plan to get out of town during some portions of the work.

# Get Started Today

*Let us turn your dream into reality.*

You have your wish list and you know your budget. You've considered the logistics and some of the key factors related to planning around your specific remodeling project. You also know how to go about finding the right contractor, and that's where we come into play.

Pinnacle Homes seeks to build your trust through clear communication, punctuality, and quality workmanship - making your project a great experience from start to finish. We are licensed in commercial and residential construction, serving Wichita, Kansas and all surrounding communities.

Now that you know how to begin planning your remodeling project, we'd love to talk with you.

Are you ready?

Call us today at (316) 260-4502 to request a free consultation, or visit [www.RemodelersWichita.com/contact](http://www.RemodelersWichita.com/contact)

