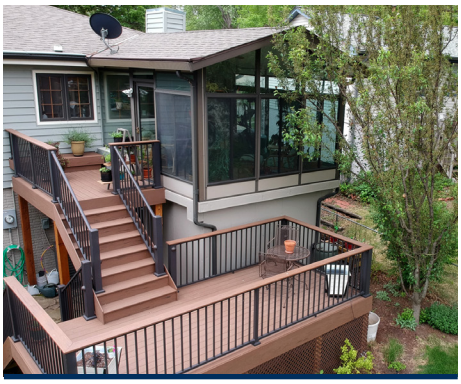
BATHROOMS

KITCHENS

ADDITIONS

BASEMENTS



DECKS AND MORE

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CUSTOM SPACES BUILT FOR YOU

10 Tips for a Successful Remodel

(10 Tips For A Successful Remodel)

1. Develop a plan and set goals. Translate goals into specific features or products. Know what you want before hiring a contractor. If this is a challenge, find a contractor that has design-build expertise to help you.

2. Set a budget. Include costs for building materials, labor, building permits and decorative finishes. Reserve 10% of your budget for unexpected costs. If your estimates exceed your budget, eliminate project elements that are a lower priority.

3. Get estimates from several contractors. Gather at least four estimates. More quotes will give you a better understanding of how the companies compare to each other e.g., price and quality baselines, etc.

4. Do background checks. Regardless of referral source, ensure the company has the proper licenses and insurance. Investigate formal complaints or legal actions. The bottom line is: hire someone you trust.

5. Investigate a contractor's work history and work habits. Some are specialists, some are generalists, ensure that strengths and skills match job requirements. Do they present a professional image?

6. Establish boundaries for the job site. You're letting outsiders into your home. You should expect routine precautions and background checks. Have ground rules for parking, bathroom use, smoking, and any other issues you feel are important.

7. Know what you'll be paying for. Some estimates are free. Sometimes a fee is charged for a 'scope of work proposal', this fee is then deducted from budget if bid is accepted. Bids are typically fixed. At times work is on a 'cost-plus' basis which should have a cap to contain cost overruns. Beware of contractor who requests cash or payment in full upfront.

8. Have a strategy for how you will resolve differences. Be sure you can communicate with your contractor as they'll be part of your life for the duration of the project. Professionals will insist on written agreements and change orders to handle any potential disputes.

9. Be a good boss. Probably the most important thing you can do other than pay on time. Being available, honest, appreciative and generally easy to get along with will make the project go smoother for all parties. Nothing beats quality face time.

10. Be aware of contract details. This should include start and completion dates. Building permits and fees. Description of products and services provided. Consequences of default.

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