



THOMPSON REMODELING

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How To
**Select Home
Remodeling Contractors**

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Next to putting the kids through college and buying your house, a home remodel is one of the biggest purchases you'll make. If you find the right contractor, remodeling your home is an expense you won't regret.

Choosing a contractor can feel intimidating, but when you learn what to look for, it makes the process easier.



Likely to Recommend

Word-of-mouth is the best advertisement. When past clients rave about the services of a contractor, it means the company delivered on its promise. If you have relatives, neighbors, friends and coworkers who have had remodels done to their homes, ask about their experiences with their contractors. Ask about any problems they had and how the contractor handled stumbling blocks. You can also get referrals from building contractors in the area. If someone you trust highly recommends a particular contractor, check the company out.



Expertise

Experience and credentials matter in a home renovation project. With referrals in hand, prepare to do your research. Call the contractor or visit the company's website to see what you can find out. Check to see if the contractor is properly licensed and has plenty of experience. It's a plus if the contractor is a member of a reputable remodeling industry associations. In addition, check with the Better Business Bureau to see if there are any unresolved complaints against the company.

Budget

Determine how much you have to spend on your remodel and then decide exactly what you want. Contact the contractor and give him as many specifics as possible about what you want to have done. The more specific you are, the more accurate the contractor's estimate will be.



Clean and Safe

During the remodel, you want to keep your property and your children safe. Get specifics about measures the contractor will take to keep the work site clean and safe. Ask about worker conduct rules, site supervision, on-site bathroom use and storage of materials.

Employees and subcontractors should also be required to clean up behind themselves each day. In addition, make sure the contractor has insurance to cover any injuries or property damage that may occur.

Communication

During the remodel process, you might want to make changes or address concerns, so communicating with the contractor is the key to getting what you want. Set a time and day each week to meet with the contractor to discuss the progress of your remodel. In addition, try to connect with the contractor daily to keep the lines of communication open. Save yourself a few headaches and decide on a method of communication ahead of time.

Construction Quality

If the construction quality is poor, your home's value will plummet and you'll end up shelling out more cash to fix serious issues. Shabby contractors' reputations tend to follow them. When you are interviewing a contractor, ask to see his work portfolio. In addition to this, ask for at least three references of homeowners he did similar work for. Once you get the references, check them out.

Employees and Subcontractors

Remodeling a home takes a lot of work and requires different skill-sets. In addition to hourly employees, general contractors often hire subcontractors who have experience in specific areas.

For instance, the general contractor may have a subcontractor on the job laying pipes, while another one handles the electrical work. These people will have a hand in how your home improvement turns out, so don't be afraid to ask the contractor about the companies he subcontracts with.



Professional and Organized

During the meeting, if the contractor is talking over you, not paying attention or seems impatient or preoccupied, scratch him off your list. Chances are, you'll be dealing with this type of unprofessional behavior throughout your remodel.

In addition, you don't want to deal with a contractor who's shuffling through papers and can't find what he needs. If he's this unorganized at a simple meeting, how's he going to be when it's time to get down to the business of renovating?



Schedule

A contractor who is able to deliver the goods as scheduled is priceless. A schedule will outline what, when and how the contractor plans to carry out and finish the job.

The schedule will consider the scope of work, resources and potential time delays. During every weekly meeting, use the written schedule to make sure the project is on track.

Closing Thoughts

In addition to the tips provided, visit the contractor's office and showroom. During your visit, ask about the systems they use to keep jobs on track, as well as how they handle follow ups. If the place is professional, organized and well managed, the contractor will likely handle your remodel with the same care.

Trust

Being able to trust the person who is renovating your home is important. This means choosing someone with a stellar reputation. Follow your instincts and go with a contractor you feel at ease with. If you are not completely comfortable with who you choose, you will have a hard time trusting him.

Contact Thompson Remodeling to get started on your project.

When remodeling simply makes sense, you need a trusted professional team by your side to help you through the process. You'll get that with Thompson Remodeling.

Let's review your plans and get started.



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