

REMODELING FOR LIFE

How Home Remodeling Can
Help Ease Life Transitions





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While many remodel purely for the sake of fashion and staying “en vogue”, remodeling can at times be necessity.

Some happy, some sad, many unexpected; life throws us all sorts of curve balls.

These often-unforeseen changes can drastically alter our daily lives. We enter a new chapter and how we cope ends up reflected in our homes. If you’re facing a new stage in life, a home renovation is no longer just about tiles and light fixtures!

In times of chaos, your home is a retreat and when entering a new phase or chapter of life, you are presented with the opportunity to change and fully equip your retreat to handle your newfound needs.

There are many life transitions that can influence your home and lifestyle. In this guide we will focus on:

- Divorce and/or Marriage
- Births or the Blending of Families
- Medical Conditions
- Downsizing
- Aging Parents and Adult Children



Planning & Timing



Most people in transition lack one thing – time.

Whether you're getting married, divorced, downsizing, or having adult parents move in with you, chances are you need to make decisions and adapt quickly. The last thing you want during your transition is the headache of "do-it-yourself" confusion, renovations, and the inevitable hiccups.

A worthwhile remodeler has the expertise, established timelines, and procedures to streamline the entire remodeling process for you. Like you and your family, the right remodeler for the job wants to get your project completed so that you can reestablish a sense of normalcy and routine in your everyday lives.

Find a remodeler you trust and they will handle all of the hassles, delivering you the home you need.

Knowing What You Need

The right remodeler for your project will make an effort to help smooth your journey in any way they can. This starts by getting to know you. Depending on your situation, your remodeler should ask specific, but professional questions. In order to design and build a functional space, a builder must know and understand your lifestyle. They need to have a full understanding of your tastes and needs then build around those ideas.

Some factors they should take into consideration include:

- Family Size
- Ages of Children
- Entertaining
- Hobbies
- Sports
- Health

Once they have fully evaluated your situation and living arrangements, they can develop a more personal plan of action. Even if you are confused about what you'll need, an experienced remodeler will be able to offer advice on what is best suited.

Your remodeler will be proactive and be engaged in your project. For example, the last thing you want at a challenging time is to be nitpicking through a confusing list of choices on materials, finishes, colors, and appliances amongst other things.



Helping You Along the Way

With the right contractor, you will have an expert on hand to advise you not only on design, but use and functionality as well. They will be able to make specific Brand and Model recommendations. They also will review the specification sheets for all materials at the time or order so you get exactly what you expect.

Overall, A qualified remodeler can help you explore the best options for you, your budget, and timeline. They will offer a realistic and practical point of view when other aspects may cloud your judgment or become overwhelming.

This is just one of the ways they take the guesswork and frustration out of the many choices you will make for your project.



Where To Begin



Marriage or Divorce:

Marriage represents not only the union of two people, but also every aspect of their lives. Once married, a couple's home should reflect the hobbies, interests, styles, and needs of both partners. It is a compromise between both of previously separate worlds.

Consider the following:

- For Her: Redo the master bath to include a vanity and perhaps a second sink. You may also consider expanding the closets.
- For Him: Remodeling the basement into a "man cave" - a place to invite his friends with a great entertainment system, pool table, etc.
- For Both: A new look and feel that you and your new partner will enjoy. Merge your styles.

In contrast, after a divorce, you typically have the opportunity to once again embrace your individuality and have it reflected in your home. Perhaps, your former spouse was not in support of a certain style choice. Now is your opportunity to splurge without compromising.



Births or the Blending of Families:

Your family is growing and you need to accommodate more people and possessions than ever before. Whether the addition is a new baby or your family is blending during a remarriage, space is bound to become an issue. Plan ahead. You may want to consider:

- Additional bedrooms
- Additional or expanded bathrooms
- A “kids” playroom
- New family or media room, where everyone can relax together
- Larger Closets

Medical Conditions:

When you or a loved one has surgery or develops a serious medical condition, it can drastically alter your home life. Many medical conditions can affect your mobility and independence amongst other things.

To help you and your family adjust, you can:

- Modify a bathroom by providing a walk in tub/shower
- Install ramps at all entrances
- Widen doorways
- Install grab bars and railings throughout your home



Downsizing, Updating, and Improving

In today's unpredictable economy and housing market, renovations frequently are not about additions and expanding, but making the most of what you have currently.

Instead of house hunting, staying put and updating is often the smartest decision for many homeowners. Some may also invest hoping to improve the curb appeal and value of their home in the current market.

Nothing gives away the age of your home like the bathroom and kitchen. Consider making the following changes:

- Updating a Dated Kitchen:
- Install Custom Cabinets, new counter tops, or tiles.
- Update Your Bathroom:
- Install New Tile, Tub, Sinks, etc.

A truly skilled remodeler can transform the feel and flow of your current home. Hire a builder with the style and quality you need and you can bring a whole new energy to your home.



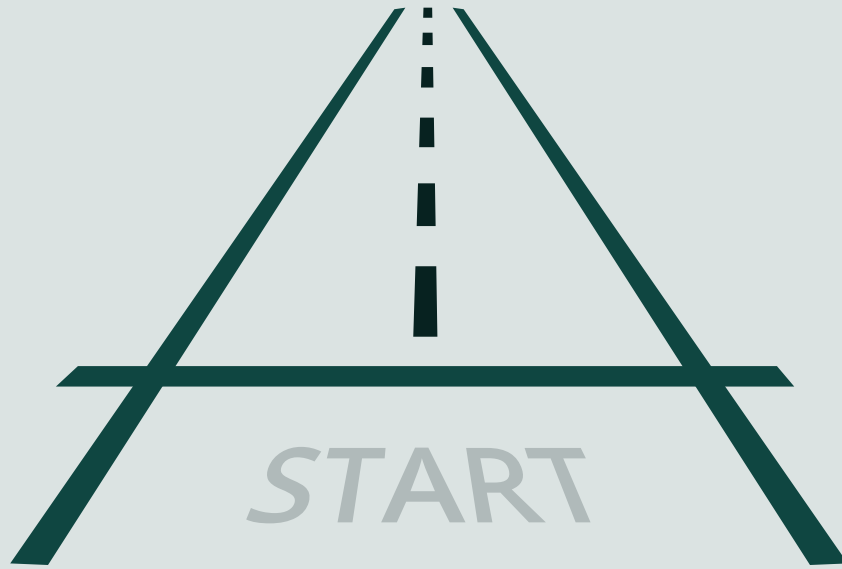
Adult Parents or Children Moving In

With Baby Boomers entering retirement and young adults facing an unstable job market, it is not uncommon for families or couples to be taking in their aging parents or adult children. Similar to the blending of families or the birth of a child, these additions to the household can put a strain on space as a resource, but unlike with children, aging parents and adult children may be more eager for their own space.

As active adults, you may want to give your parents or adult children a separate living space, in what we call “In-Law” or “Accessory” Apartments. These elaborate additions are becoming increasingly popular as they allow their residents the same freedom and living space they’d enjoy on their own, while still remaining under the safety and security of a loved ones roof.

In addition to “In-Law” Apartments, you may want to explore:

- Updating and refreshing bedrooms
- Renovating and Furnishing a basement
- Additional Bathrooms



Getting Started

Though times of change and transition can be difficult, they can also be times of opportunity. Take these chances to make your home the sanctuary you have always wanted and now need. If you need a trustworthy expert to help you transition with your home, the Litchfield Builders team can help.

The average home remodeling company fails in its first 5 years, but Litchfield Builders has been thriving for over 2 decades. Though the information included in this guide may set a high standard, it is a standard we strive for and expect all of our competitors to as well.

Use these tips and questions to choose the best possible contractor for your project and family. For a more personalized estimate and guidance on your next home remodeling project please contact us.

A large, rustic indoor swimming pool with stone walls and large windows. The pool is filled with clear blue water, and the surrounding area is made of dark, rough-hewn stone. Large windows with multiple panes are visible in the background, letting in natural light. The overall atmosphere is warm and inviting.

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