

Home Remodeling Checklist

Crafted by Better Remodels Experts with 25 Years of Experience

A home remodel can be one of the most rewarding investments you make—transforming a tired space into something that truly suits your needs and style. But it can also be a complex project, involving careful planning, coordination, and execution. With 25 years of experience at Better Remodels, we've developed this comprehensive Home Remodeling Checklist to help guide you through the entire process—from brainstorming ideas to enjoying your newly renovated home.



Planning & Preparation

- **Define Your Objectives:** What do you hope to achieve? Is it increasing functionality, enhancing curb appeal, updating outdated features, or adding space?
- **Set a Realistic Budget:** Establish a budget that includes all costs—labor, materials, permits, and a contingency fund for unforeseen expenses.
- **Establish a Timeline:** Determine how long the remodel will take and when you'd like the project to be completed. Be sure to account for delays and unexpected issues.
- **Research and Select Contractors:** Choose a general contractor or design-build firm with a proven track record. Ask for references, review past work, and verify credentials.
- **Get Permits:** Ensure that all necessary permits are obtained before any work begins, especially for structural changes, electrical, or plumbing updates.



Design & Layout

- **Assess Your Current Space:** Walk through your home and note areas that need improvement, are underutilized, or feel cramped.
- **Create a Functional Layout:** Think about how your layout can be optimized. Will moving walls, adding windows, or changing room sizes improve your space?
- **Design Aesthetics:** Select a style or theme (e.g., modern, traditional, industrial) that complements the architecture of your home and your personal preferences.
- **Room-Specific Plans:** Focus on the design of individual rooms—living room, kitchen, bedrooms, bathrooms, or even outdoor spaces. Ensure each room fits your lifestyle and needs.



Materials & Finishes Selection

- **Flooring:** Choose durable and attractive flooring options. Options include hardwood, tile, laminate, vinyl, and natural stone. Consider wear and tear in high-traffic areas.
- **Cabinets & Storage:** Whether updating the kitchen, bathroom, or other rooms, select cabinetry and storage solutions that provide both functionality and style.
- **Countertops & Surfaces:** Consider materials such as granite, quartz, marble, or butcher block. Make sure your selections are easy to maintain and suit the room's purpose.
- **Paint & Wall Treatments:** Choose the right color palette and finishes for each room. For accent walls, wallpaper, or other wall treatments, make sure they complement your design vision.
- **Lighting Fixtures:** Select lighting that provides adequate illumination and enhances the design. Consider a combination of ambient, task, and accent lighting for each space.



- **Hardware & Fixtures:** Select knobs, handles, faucets, and other fixtures that align with your style. Finishes can range from matte black to polished nickel, or modern chrome.

Demolition & Site Preparation

- **Clear the Space:** Remove any furniture, decor, and fixtures that will be replaced. Safeguard valuable items from dust and debris.
- **Check for Hidden Issues:** During demolition, inspect for issues like water damage, mold, or structural damage. These can impact the scope of the project.
- **Prepare for the Unexpected:** Some unexpected problems (e.g., hidden leaks, outdated electrical wiring) might be discovered once demolition starts. Plan for extra time and budget.



Structural Work & Systems Updates

- **Foundation & Framing:** If you're making significant changes to your home's structure, you'll need to address the foundation or framing first.
- **Plumbing & Electrical Updates:** Moving or upgrading plumbing lines, water heaters, and electrical systems may be necessary. Ensure all updates meet local building codes.
- **HVAC Systems:** If you're expanding or altering spaces, you might need to adjust heating, cooling, or ventilation systems to ensure efficiency and comfort.
- **Roofing & Insulation:** If you're remodeling the roof or attic, inspect insulation, vents, and roofing materials. Upgrading insulation can improve energy efficiency.



Interior & Exterior Installation

- **Framing & Drywall:** Install framing for any structural changes, followed by drywall. Properly insulate walls, ceilings, and floors where needed.
- **Flooring Installation:** Install flooring materials once the structure is ready. Ensure the subfloor is level and secure before laying down the final flooring.
- **Cabinets & Fixtures:** Begin installing kitchen and bathroom cabinetry, built-in shelving, and any custom storage solutions.
- **Countertops & Surfaces:** Install your chosen countertops, making sure they are properly secured and sealed.
- **Windows & Doors:** Install new windows or doors, making sure they are energy-efficient and meet your style preferences.
- **Lighting & Electrical Fixtures:** Install light fixtures, switches, and electrical outlets as needed. Ensure everything is properly wired and tested.



Finishing Touches

- **Painting & Touch-ups:** Apply final coats of paint and touch up any areas that need it. Consider professional painting for a smooth, polished finish.
- **Backsplash & Tile Work:** Install backsplash in kitchens and bathrooms, ensuring grout lines are neat and sealed.



- **Hardware Installation:** Attach knobs, pulls, and faucets. Install any final hardware such as towel racks, shelves, and hooks.
- **Install Mirrors & Art:** Hang mirrors, artwork, and other decorative pieces to complete the space and bring your design to life.
- **Landscaping & Outdoor Spaces:** If the remodel includes exterior areas, add landscaping, new patios, or outdoor features like lighting or a fire pit.

Final Inspection & Walkthrough

- **Check for Functionality:** Test all new features, including appliances, plumbing, lighting, and electrical work. Ensure that all systems are functioning properly.
- **Look for Finishing Touches:** Inspect the overall quality of the work. Are all seams, joints, and edges smooth? Are any repairs needed?
- **Clean the Space:** A deep clean is essential—remove dust, paint splatters, and construction debris. It'll make the space feel fresh and new.
- **Review Design & Budget:** Walk through the space to ensure it aligns with your original design vision. Double-check that the project stays within the planned budget and timeline.
- **Document Warranties:** Ensure that all warranties for appliances, countertops, or materials are in order and keep the documentation safe.



Move-In & Enjoy!

- **Move Furniture & Decor:** Once everything is complete and cleaned, move in furniture and décor.
- **Settle In:** Take time to adjust to your remodeled space. Explore how the new layout functions in everyday life and tweak any small details that may need attention.
- **Ongoing Maintenance:** Maintain your new space by regularly checking for wear and tear. Follow care instructions for flooring, countertops, and appliances to ensure longevity.



Pro Tip from Better Remodels Experts:

Don't rush through the decision-making process. Take the time to research materials, contractors, and designs that truly align with your long-term needs. Quality renovations not only add value to your home but also improve your overall quality of life.

With this Home Remodeling Checklist in hand, you're ready to embark on your project with confidence. Whether you're tackling a single room or a full-home remodel, Better Remodels is here to help you every step of the way, ensuring your home becomes the space of your dreams.