

Surviving Home Improvements

Did you know?

Despite well-meaning plans and the best intentions, many remodeling projects go over budget and take far longer than first anticipated. And those are just two of the potential headaches that can arise when you decide to improve your home.

Whether you are creating your dream kitchen, updating an antiquated bathroom, or adding a new bedroom, here are some tips to get through the renovations with as few troubles as possible.

Get It in Writing

Before you even start the project, create an agreement for you and your contractors to sign.

- Outline which hours are OK for workers to be in your house.
- Mutually agreed upon start and finish dates will better ensure a timely completion.
- Likewise, encouraging your contractor to list every possible expense will keep the team on budget and prevent surprises. (Just in case, set aside 20% of your final budget for surprise costs that might crop up.)

Protect Your Privacy

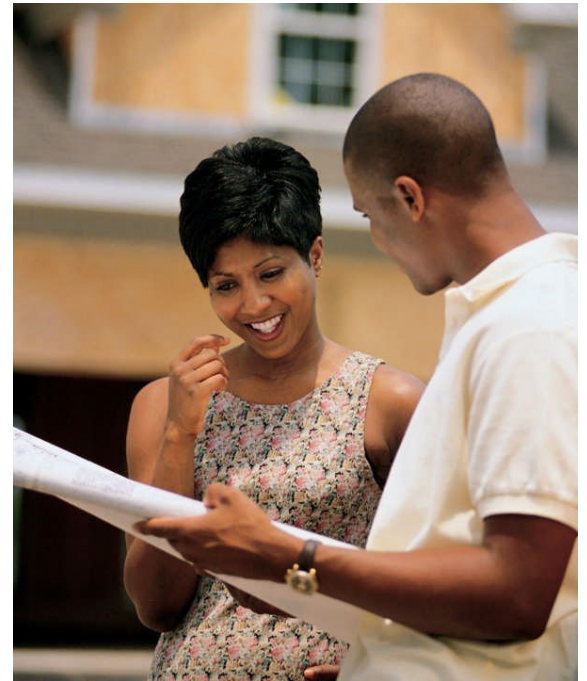
If possible, create a boundary around the work being done with makeshift walls. This will also ensure the rest of your house stays relatively dust free and keeps little ones from straying into work zones.

Communicate

Designate one member of your family and one member of the contracting team to serve as spokesperson. This helps prevent potential “too many cooks in the kitchen” situations that can be confusing for both sides. Also, give the contractor spokesperson one set of keys to your house and make them responsible for letting others in and out.

Keep It Clean

Keeping your house livable might be as simple as asking your contractors to clean up when they are finished working for the day. And be clear regarding your expectations about what to do with large debris, as well as where contractors can smoke and dispose of cigarette butts and other litter.



Vacate the Chaos

Take this opportunity to explore areas outside your home.

- Try out new restaurants or coffee shops.
- Volunteer for local community organizations.
- Take a vacation.
- Visit with friends and family who live out of town.
- Spend some time in the local library.
- Go for a walk around your neighborhood.



By the way...

I hope this information has been helpful to you. If you know someone who could also benefit from this type of information, or who is in need of a trusted real estate advisor, please forward their contact information to me so I can get in touch with them. I'm never too busy for your referrals.

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