

homes & design renovations

# Renovation Do's & Don'ts

Designers share their tips for tackling your next renovation.

**DO** make quality and style a priority (meaning: plan to spend more) on something that you use, see and touch often every day. A vanity sink or faucet—even light switches and door-lever hardware are all good examples.

**Merike Lainevool** Kodudesign, Vancouver

**DON'T** assume you need an addition or a third level. If your ideas for new spaces don't fit into the existing areas, try to envision your home without interior walls. Now what do you think you would be able to do in 1,500 square feet?

**Trevor Hoover**, Habitat Studio and Workshop, Edmonton

**DO** determine your five- to 15-year plan. Chances are, if your improvements are focused on the kitchen, family room and bathrooms, the surrounding real estate prices will catch up before you are ready to sell.

**Bruce Wilson**, Bruce Wilson Canada, Victoria

**DON'T** wait until the drywall is being installed to go looking for tile and flooring options. Designer finishes often need to be special ordered and then take four to eight weeks to arrive at your home. Too often people end up with mediocre last-minute solutions because they didn't plan well.

**Kelly Deck** Kelly Deck Design, Vancouver

**DO** be realistic. Set a budget and add a 20-percent buffer. Things come up and you need to be prepared. Get quotes from several contractors before starting a job, and check their references.

**Alykhan Velji**, Alykhan Velji Design, Calgary

**DON'T** get overwhelmed by the dust, the stress of decision-making, etc., because when that happens, you start to cut corners or begin thinking, "I don't really need that." When your renovation is completed, you'll say, "Why didn't I do it? It would have been so much better."

**Nancy Riesco**, Riesco & Lapres Interior Design, Vancouver

**DO** budget for an experienced and objective opinion, or spend time mapping out the new layout on graph paper, including the furniture arrangements. Having no master plan results in years of regret.

**Ian McLeod and Kerry Johnson**, Johnson McLeod, Vancouver

**DON'T** short-change on lighting. Many homes are under-lit. Create a layered lighting plan than can be controlled by dimmers.

**Nyla Free**, Nyla Free Designs, Calgary

**DO** something good for the environment by picking quality materials and finishes that support your lifestyle and let your home age gracefully for many, many years.

**Geralyne Mitschke**, Geralyne Mitschke Design, Vancouver



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