

7 TIPS FOR A SUCCESSFUL RENOVATION

How do start your renovation on the right foot to ensure your renovating experience is as pleasant as possible? After 30 years in the business, Lou Soucy, owner of Renovations of Excellence (WeDoRenos.com), has seen everything; and he has the answer. Thankfully, he's put together this list of tips every homeowner should follow when planning a renovation.

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TIP #1 | TAKE YOUR TIME WITH THE DESIGN

Soucy says that people often rush in to renovations without thorough design planning. "People don't know what's possible and what's not. Through the design process, we go over dos and don'ts." You need to think beyond what's already there, to consider things like curb appeal (you may want to sell your house in the future), and to make sure your renovation fits with the rest of your house.

Tip #2 | HIRE A GOOD PROJECT MANAGER

For small jobs, project management is moot, but for larger jobs, hiring someone who can handle all the trades and suppliers is key to a happy renovation. Renovations are stressful; that stress is significantly reduced if your renovator can handle and coordinate the whole job.

Tip #3 | RESEARCH YOUR RENOVATOR

Not all renovators are created equally. Check out their website and see what they've done. Then, ask your renovator to put you in touch with some of those past clients. You can ask them how the project really went—remember, a renovation is more than just a pretty new room... it's also a stressful process.

Tip #4 | ASK FOR DOCUMENTATION

"Anyone can say they're bonded or insured, but... talk is cheap." Ask to see the documentation, and phone around. Bonding, licensing, WCB and insurance: these are all things your renovator should prove he has before working on your home.

Tip #5 | REMEMBER THAT YOU GET WHAT YOU PAY FOR

If you hire someone who is able to significantly undercut other quotes, beware. With renovations, you really do get what you pay for.

Tip #6 | COMMUNICATE WITH YOUR RENOVATOR

Establish a good rapport, and hire someone you feel comfortable working with. You'll be working together for quite a while, so you really do need to have a positive and easy relationship. You should also feel comfortable expressing your opinion and saying exactly what you want. Renovators aren't mind readers. If you want something, ask for it.

Tip #7 | KNOW YOUR BUDGET

Before you start shopping around for renovators, figure out your budget. What can you afford? Is there any wiggle room in your budget? Will this renovation break the bank? You'll get the most from your money and have the least disappointment if your renovator knows going in what he's working with.

For more renovation tips, or to get started on your renovation, visit www.WeDoRenos.com, call 780-441-1243, or email Renovations of Excellence at renos@telusplanet.net. 

