

Home Renovation Checklist

By Nicole Nichols-West

- 1. Finances
 - Review your current financial situation to be sure you can afford renovations.
 - Start saving Set aside a certain amount each month for your renovations.
 - Set a budget.
 - Reduce or eliminate outstanding debt Consider rolling your debt into a loan for the renovations.
 - Meet with a financial advisor to discuss your options.
 - Check your home insurance policy for information about renovating.
- 2. Construction
 - Brainstorm, make plans and blueprints.
 - Be sure that you are compliant with local planning and building laws.
 - Get a planning permit, if necessary.
 - Arrange for several required inspections throughout the renovation process.
 - Find tradesman you can trust and are comfortable with Research your service providers before signing contracts.
 - Read all documents and contracts carefully before signing Keep all papers in a secure location.
 - Read architecture and design magazines and websites to gain inspiration.
 - Visit a few home shows to get ideas for style, design, floor plans, etc.
 - Be environmentally responsible and energy efficient. Make renovations green!
 - Create a timetable for when tasks need to be completed.
 - Find an architect.
 - Find a carpenter
 - Find an electrician.
 - Find a plumber.
 - Find a painter.
 - If you will makeover the exterior of your house, enlist the help of a landscaping company or gardener.

- Get material to protect walls, floors and furniture during renovation process.
- Once renovations are complete, do a final walk through with your tradesman for careful inspection.
- Hire a professional cleaning company after renovations are complete.
- Find an interior decorator.
- Be flexible and understanding if things dont go according to plan, but also firm in your objectives, budget and timelines.