

# 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.