

The Ultimate Home Remodel Checklist

*Everything you need to get started
with a home remodeling project.*

Pinnacle Homes, Inc.


RemodelersWichita.com

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Building Your Trust



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A photograph of a kitchen sink area. The sink is a white, double-basin drop-in style. The countertop is a light-colored granite. Above the sink is a window with a white frame. The wall behind the sink is tiled with light-colored, square tiles. The lighting is bright, coming from the window.

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Introduction

Getting started with a remodeling project can be a challenge. It's not as easy as simply knowing you're ready for a change, or you're looking for something new.

You need to know what you want, how much you're willing to spend, and the best way to combine those often competing aspects of the project.

Starting with a wish list of the most important and desired components of any remodeling project provides you with a vision of where you want to end up. That may be limited by your budget, but you'll be able to prioritize by knowing what's essential and what's a like-to have.

You also need to find the right contractor to work with. Don't assume you'll see the same end result or enjoy the same experience with any company. Do your research, ask the right questions, and ensure the contractor you choose is the right fit for your project specifically.

Then there are the often-overlooked logistics of a home remodeling or renovation project. Know what to expect and plan in advance so you're not caught off guard when the moment comes.

*Consider this
your ultimate
home remodel
checklist to
help you get
moving in the
right direction.*

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Create a Wish List

It's time to dream big!

There's always room to scale back an idea later, and to mesh your vision with what's actually feasible within your project's budget and other constraints you may be facing.

Now is the time to make a wish list of everything you'd love to see. Make it as long and as comprehensive as you like, and leave no idea unexplored.

Of course, your wish list can vary greatly depending on what room or area you're remodeling. And each person will have his or her own wish list, too, which is why it's important to create yours from scratch, rather than using someone else's.

To get started, ask yourself what the biggest problem is with the existing room or space, or the number one reason you're remodeling in the first place.

Then ask yourself how you would ideally like to use that room. What type of features will help get you to that end result? Envision your home and your lifestyle, not just in the immediate future, but also in five or 10 years. How will the project help you accomplish this?

Let's face it, your 25-point wish list may never be 100 percent completed. So, once you have your master wish list, it's time to prioritize it. Here's a simple way to break it down:

What's the number one, absolute, must-have for this project? There's no compromising for you on this.

What are the top three items that would really make you happy with the project's outcome?

What are the remaining wish list items that would be nice to have, but wouldn't necessarily be a deal breaker to go without?

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Establish Your Budget

The part of the remodeling process that most people dread is the budget. How much is this project going to cost? What can you afford? Will your expectations match up with your budget?

The tricky part is that many homeowners underestimate how much their dream project is going to cost. That's why it's important to be realistic.

The main elements that impact your budget include:

The size and scope of your project.

The type of materials used.

Appliances, if necessary.

Plumbing and electrical work.

Whether or not structural changes are required, as well as existing age and condition of the home.

Overall craftsmanship and quality.

Don't forget to plan for unexpected costs, too. Estimates are estimates for a reason, and sometimes even with the best of intentions, unexpected expenses come up.

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Find the Right Contractor for the Job

You have your wish list and your budget. Now what? Time to find the right contractor.

So, who's going to be right for you? Unfortunately, there's no easy answer here. Some contractors will have capabilities, concepts, and costs that are more in line with certain homeowners. It's more about finding a contractor that will work well with you, your wish list, and your personality.

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Research

The important thing is that you take the time to look around and do some research. Take a look at a few different companies in your local area who you feel may be aligned with what you're seeking. Be sure to look at their scope of services, their overall process for completing a project, and examples of previous work similar in nature to yours. Also, reach out to suppliers and subcontractors that have worked with the contractor to get their opinions on how he/she handles projects, timelines, etc.

Getting a direct referral or recommendation from a trusted friend, neighbor, or family member is always a smart idea. They'll be able to speak to not only the quality of the finished project, but also the process of working with that contractor, and how smoothly, or not, it went.

Interviews

Don't limit yourself to only looking online. Use that as a starting point to begin narrowing down the selection. From there, speak with and interview several different contractors. Here are a few questions you may want to ask:

Are they properly licensed and insured?

Do they have references they can provide?

How long have they been in business?

How many similar projects have they completed?

How many projects do they work on at once?

Will they be able to meet your budget and your deadline?

Do they work with employees or subcontractors?

How many people do they have available for each project?

What makes them stand out from the competition,

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Overall, does a particular contractor seem like an upfront, honest individual you can trust with your project, your money, and your home?

Will you enjoy working with them, and do you think they have a good sense of what you're looking for and how they'll be able to accomplish it?

Estimates

Of course, you may wish to receive bids or estimates from several different contractors. You want to ensure that each bid deals with the exact same scope of work and specifications so you can directly and fairly compare them.

Some contractors may try to hide certain costs, or may fail to explain how they arrived at particular totals. So be sure to ask about anything you don't understand, and ensure you receive clear answers.

Conversely, estimates that seem too cheap, and a bit too good to be true, may end up being just that. The contractor could be cutting some corners with the quality of the project, the time he takes, and his craftsmanship, or the grade of materials he's using.

***Keep in mind
that the most
expensive
bid doesn't
necessarily
make it the
"best" or
"nicest."***



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Create Your Timeline

Different projects will require different amounts of time to complete. And there's more to it than simply getting the contractor into the house to get the job done.

That's why you have to consider both the amount of time the contractor will actually need to do the work in house, as well as the overall completion time of a project from start to finish, including hiring, planning, and other logistics.

It may take a while to interview and hire the right contractor for your job. And you may also have to wait until their schedule allows time for your project. High quality contractors can be booked weeks, or even months, in advance. But the right one is worth the wait.

You may have to wait to get certain permits, or specific materials may take some time to track down. And projects that require bringing in specialized contractors for electric work, plumbing, and so forth, tend to take more time, too.

Bottom line, work with your contractor to create a realistic timeline, and be sure to include plenty of room for those expected delays.

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Additional Considerations

Many homeowners get caught off guard with some of the logistical considerations of a large home remodeling project. It's important to plan and prepare for these so that it doesn't happen to you.

You should make some necessary arrangements and consider how you'll deal with the project and the accessibility or livability of your home during the process. Here are a few factors to consider:

What hours of the day and days of the week will the contractor be in your home?

How does that fit into your work schedule, your kids' routines for school or homework, and the rest of your life?

Does your neighborhood have restrictions on when potentially noisy construction projects can be completed?

Do you have a pet left home alone? Will you be able to safely keep it there during the project?

These are just a few logistical concerns to keep in mind. Most contractors should be able to work around your schedule to suit your needs and your lifestyle. Like with all other factors, consider how that affects the project's completion date.

For large projects, like total home renovations or large exterior additions, you may want to plan to get out of town during some of the work. Take a vacation and get out of the contractor's way without subjecting yourself to any of the aforementioned inconveniences or interruptions.

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Getting Started Today!

Let us turn your dream into reality.

You have your wish list, and you know what price range you're looking at. You've considered the logistics and some of the key factors related to planning around your specific remodeling project. You also know how to go about finding the right contractor, and that's where we come into play.

Pinnacle Homes seeks to build your trust through clear communication, punctuality, and quality workmanship - making your project a great experience from start to finish. We are licensed in commercial and residential construction, serving Wichita, Kansas, and all surrounding communities.

Now that you know how to get started planning your own remodeling project, we'd love to talk with you.

Are you ready to start your home remodeling project?

Call us today at 316.260.4502 to request a free consultation, or visit www.RemodelersWichita.com/free

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Consultation***