



Generously supported by Vancouver Foundation
Family Independence Fund
Children and Youth with Special Needs Fund

Renovation Tips: Things You Should Know Before You Get Started

Home renovation is both a *financial* and *emotional* investment. A successful home renovation begins with thoughtful planning. Here are some tips to help you get started.

Tip #1: Prepare a list of points & questions in advance

Be prepared to talk to your contractor/renovator about your project in detail. Outline your plans, what you want to achieve and the renovation services you are looking for. If you are uncertain about your needs, ask the renovators to explain the entire process and the services offered by their company.

Tip #2: Check references

Even if your first impression is positive, you should always follow up on the references provided by the renovator. If you found the renovator through a personal recommendation, you should still call a few other homeowners. Ask previous clients about their satisfaction with the company and the results. Would they hire the renovator again or recommend the company to friends?

#3: Never hire someone without a contract!

No matter how small the job, you need to have it in writing. Without a contract, you will have no recourse if problems occur later. At a minimum, details should include a description of the work, the materials used, start and finish dates, as well as the price and payment schedule. Professional renovators use either their own contract or a standard industry contract. Peace of mind comes from knowing what you can expect and that you are getting what you are paying for.

If you decide to hire a different contractor than the one that provided quotes for your application be aware of low-ball bids. Contractors that come in last minute may try and cut corners and quick bids tend to end up in questionable quality work, potentially unfulfilled promises and sub-optimal outcomes.

Tip #4: Keep Communication Open

Communication is the cornerstone of a good working relationship. Experienced renovators listen carefully, and deal with your concerns and questions promptly and to your satisfaction. During the project, good renovators stay in close contact with you and regularly discuss the progress of the work. Let them know that you expect this kind of working relationship.

A Reminder

The GIVING IN ACTION SOCIETY (GIA) is a **third party funder** and has no role in prescribing, recommending or selecting vendors, suppliers, or contractors. If a contractor tells you that they have been **recommended by GIA** please call us toll free 1-866-523-3157 or 604-683-3157, so we can follow-up.

You (the grant recipient) are responsible for **payments which exceed the approved amount** or for items not approved in the original application. The Giving in Action Society cannot act as a mediator and **will only pay invoices that you (the grant recipient) authorize** - by signing the invoice.