



THE WORK PLAN

Surviving Your Remodeling Project

The work plan is in place and the job is scheduled to begin. Now what? A remodeling project can seem to drag on, especially if a plan to cope with the inconvenience isn't in place from the beginning. While working with a Home Improvement professional to plan the project is standard, teaming up on a survival plan for the family makes sense, too.

Here's a list of elements to take into account before the first sawdust hits the floor. Let this be a guide, and come up with more to fit your personal situation:

- **Detailed Timeline** – Work with your contractor to put together a detailed timeline on a calendar so you know when a phase of the project will start and when it will be completed. Some aspects of the job are more disruptive than others.
- **Storage** – Will you be moving a lot of possessions out of the house or just room to room? The crew will need space for power tools and supplies that take up more room than you may imagine. Arrange for storage ahead of time – an off-site unit or temporary “pod” may be a solution. If you're not moving larger pieces out of the house, provide adequate materials to cover and protect things like sofas and dining room tables.
- **The Jobsite** – There will be deliveries of materials and work crews will need a place to park. Consider working out a plan with your neighbors. Depending upon the scope of the job, there could be additional noise from tools and equipment. Be sure to keep pets and family members out of the work zone – for their own safety and to avoid slowing down the work.
- **Flexibility** – Expect the unexpected. No matter how you plan, there will be things you cannot anticipate. There will be late deliveries, bad weather and out of stock materials. Installation of new appliances, plumbing or electrical can require shutting off power, gas or water. Be prepared to deal with these delays. Taking out a wall can uncover a difficult situation, or when things are moving an idea may strike. Remember, changes, no matter how exciting, cost money and time.
- **Communicate** – Keep your cool if you see something you don't think is right. There may be a reason for it you don't understand. If you have questions, don't bombard the on-site crews with them. Go to the Project Manager, it's part of his job to keep you in the loop. A kind word goes a long way in keeping your project on schedule – don't forget the magic words: Please and Thank You.

Hang In There

There will be times when you wished you'd left well enough alone. And times when it may feel the project is endless. With advanced planning your family can smooth over the rougher spots – keeping in mind the end will, eventually, outshine the dust and disarray.

NOTES
