

Survive a Remodel

Ready to remodel? It doesn't matter if the job will take two weeks or two months. When you're remodeling, you're investing a lot of time, energy and resources into creating a beautiful and functional room – and the end result will definitely be worth it.

But make no mistake about it. Remodeling can be very stressful. After all, you'll be living in a construction zone. It is possible, however, to survive all the sheetrock and sawdust. All it takes is some careful planning and organization to ensure your project goes smoothly and your life can stay as normal as possible.

Communication Counts

Before any remodeling work begins, hold a pre-construction meeting with your contractor. This way, you can ask specific questions, and your contractor can explain exactly what will be done, when it will be done and how long each task will take.

After the remodeling starts, keep your contractor's phone number handy, and be sure to keep the lines of communication open. Expect to set aside time for telephone calls and regular meetings with your contractor throughout the remodeling process to review the progress and discuss the schedule for the remaining work. This will enhance your understanding of the project, provide an opportunity to exchange ideas and ultimately help make the experience a positive one for everyone involved.

Logistically Speaking

Paying close attention to the details will go a long way in ensuring your remodeling process goes smoothly. Your contractor should provide you with a weekly schedule of the work that's to be done, when materials need to be ordered and when they'll be delivered. For custom-made items, it is especially important to make your selections as early in the process as possible.

During the remodeling process, plan for extra storage. Your contractor will have extra tools, materials and equipment in your house to complete the project, so you'll want to find a good spot for them. And plan to protect your household items from any remodeling dust and debris. Cover your furniture and carpeting, and consider putting some furniture in storage. A good contractor also will help you cover and protect the work area.

Expect the Unexpected

The bigger the project, the greater the potential for problems, such as late deliveries, wrong parts, adverse weather, on-the-spot changes and more. But if you keep your cool, and stay calm and flexible, you'll be able to ensure the remodeling process still runs smoothly. It helps to designate a safe haven in your home where you can escape from the chaos and commotion of the construction. And, finally, always remember to maintain a sense of humor. It's easy to get caught up in the inconvenience of the project, but look at the remodeling process as an adventure. Certain things are out of your control, so it's better to laugh than to become angry.