

## Home renovations – How to love them

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Planning to renovate that dreaded kitchen or bathroom this Spring?  
Well grab your coat and boots and get out to the shops to get started.

### 1. Research.

Cabinets, countertops, appliances and plumbing fixtures all need to be researched and many items have long lead times to be manufactured or imported from other locations.

These first steps should be fun! Think of this as a period of exploration. Pretend you have no budget so you can really appreciate all the new and different products for the consumer without worrying about the cost. There's lots of time to get practical.

To get the best results with your time, call ahead to the shops you want to visit and make an appointment with one of the sales staff. This way you won't wander around wishing someone had the time to answer your questions.

### 2. Set a budget.

Now that you've got an idea about the costs of materials, determine what budget makes sense for your project. Consider how long you plan to stay in the home, the needs and wishes of the family members and how the family can best carry out these functions in the space.

### 3. Choose your professionals.

Find your designer or general contractor to help you organize your budget into the specific requirements: construction needs, plumbing and electrical, flooring, lighting, painting, cabinets, plumbing fixtures, appliances etc. Referrals are always a good way to get started.

### 4. Plan where and how the family will live during the renovation.

Try to keep this creative and fun and remember to tell every family member and acquaintance that you will be doing a renovation and when it will happen. This is no time to be shy. If anyone offers food or boarding, accept graciously. (*Begging is not pretty and hopefully not necessary.*)

### 5. Choose your suppliers.

Get pricing on all the materials and labour you need. **Do not** commit to deposits until you have an itemized list of all your costs plus 15% to allow for "hiccups" along the way. Remember to include taxes.

### 6. Set up a time schedule.

Working with your professionals, set up a tentative schedule for ordering and delivering materials as well as scheduling labour.

### 7. Buy! Buy! Buy!

Now that you have made your choices in materials and labour and have your schedule, it's time to buy! Put down the deposits along with tentative deadlines for delivery. As the time draws closer, tighten up these dates.

### 8. Put the job into the hands of the professionals.

You will be asked for input along the way, but the process should be fun.

During the renovation, remember to:

- Have faith in your choices
- Be gracious and grateful to your professionals and trades people  
.... and choose to have a good time in the process.