

# Five Important Things I Learned From My Home Remodel

Like many of you, I approached my recent home remodel with a mixture of excitement (I was finally getting a new kitchen) and trepidation (the cost, the chaos, the dust). But before I got started, I did my homework, and finally selected a design/build firm that got me through the process within my budget and with minimal disruption.

## Here's what I learned:

### ■ Prices Are Good Now.

When the economy is tough, the timing can be great for a home remodel. Material and labor prices have stayed pretty stable over the last few years so you can often get a great deal.

### ■ Enjoy It Now – *Not Just When You're About To Sell.*

A lot of people put off remodeling until they're about to put the house on the market. I did my remodeling now – so we could enjoy our new kitchen. But I made sure to make the design classic enough so it would appeal to a buyer in the future.

### ■ Work With A Design/Build Firm.

You can hire a general contractor who will call in his or her contacts and suppliers and do all the coordinating. But, every time I've ever done this there seemed to be scheduling/coordination problems and frustrating delays. A design/build firm will handle the design and production from start to finish, streamlining the process and making your life during the construction much easier.

### ■ Choose A Firm With Experience In Your Area.

You want a company that knows the lay of the land (e.g., wetlands, zoning etc.), as well as what permits are needed for your area. A knowledgeable firm will do everything according to code, and prevent problems from occurring down the road.

### ■ Get References.

A home remodel, regardless of size, is a big investment and something you're going to live with for a long time. So make sure you get references up front. Read the testimonials on the Website, but be sure to call past customers too. If a firm won't supply references, move on.




Kitchen Remodel

Remodeling Consultants of Westchester and Fairfield, has a deep understanding of the remodeling industry. In business for more than 50 years, and with thousands of projects in their portfolio, their well-managed, financially sound design/build firm will meet with you in your home to discuss your project at no cost or obligation. To read about them and see their before and after photos, visit their website [www.remodeling-consultants.com](http://www.remodeling-consultants.com)

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