

The Foundation of Success: Defining Your Renovation Goals and Scope



Aspect	Details	Examples
Initial Planning	Establish a clear vision and define goals, understanding the difference between renovations and remodels. A renovation improves surfaces or aesthetics, while a remodel changes structural elements.	Renovation examples include repainting walls or updating cabinets. Remodel examples include knocking down walls or reconfiguring a kitchen layout.
Budgeting	Set a comprehensive budget that includes permits, materials, labor, design fees, and contingency funds (10%-20% for unexpected costs).	Kitchen remodel averages \$30,000, while general renovation can cost \$15-\$60 per sq ft.
Timelines	Create realistic project timelines based on the scope and complexity of your renovation.	Kitchen remodels may take 6-12 weeks, while bathroom remodels could range from 3-10 weeks.
Professional Hiring	Hire qualified contractors, ensuring they are licensed and insured. Use vetted contractor programs if applicable for added confidence.	Check references, verify licenses, and confirm insurance before contracting.
Permits and Preparation	Research permit requirements for structural changes, plumbing, or electrical work. Prepare the home by protecting belongings and creating dust barriers.	Projects such as adding extensions or major plumbing updates typically require permits.
Waste Management	Plan for debris removal, recycling materials where possible, and maintaining a clean workspace during the project.	Consider renting a dumpster or hiring a waste removal service for large-scale projects.
DIY vs. Professional	Evaluate personal skills for tasks like painting or minor demolition. Hire professionals for electrical, plumbing, structural changes, or hazardous material removal.	Examples of DIY tasks include painting or installing easy flooring. Professional tasks include roof repairs or asbestos removal.