

## Stress Free Renovations

**S**o you've decided to invest time, energy and money into remodeling your home; a project that is well worth the investment considering the improved function, form and value that most renovations bring to a home.

There are, however, a lot of details to consider and a lot of things that can go wrong, leading to unnecessary stress as well as added financial burdens.

The following are 6 tips that you should keep in mind to help make sure that your remodeling process goes as smoothly as possible:

### 1. Plan Ahead

You don't want to be making choices about fixtures, colours, textures, etc. during the remodeling process. All of these choices should be made well ahead of time so that the remodeling process itself isn't slowed down.

### 2. Be Careful When Creating Your Budget

Your budget involves much more than just the remodeling itself. Keep in mind costs such as long-term maintenance, potential repair expenses, utility expenses and more when making the calculations for your budget.

### 3. Hire a Reputable Contractor

Finding a professional contractor is incredibly important if you want to make sure that you end up with high quality renovations that won't fall apart over time.

Piece of mind is invaluable. Thanks to Homeservice Club you can rest easy knowing that all contractors are pre-screened, all licenses are up to date, and all contractors are fully insured.

and address, details about the project and more.

### 6. Prepare Your Home For the Remodeling Process

There are a few things that go into this.

First of all, you should move all valuables from the space being remodeled and pack them somewhere safe. The same goes for any furniture and décor. Fixtures that cannot be moved should be protected using plastic sheets.

Additionally, if you are remodeling an area that is used on a daily basis, you'll want to create a temporary space for that function somewhere else. This means

that if you are remodeling your kitchen, you should create a temporary kitchen space elsewhere that you can use.

If this isn't an option for you, you can also schedule renovation projects to take place while you're away at the cottage, or otherwise out of town. If you really don't want to be around the dust and debris, look into temporary accommodations.

Keeping these 6 tips in mind while planning a home remodeling project will ensure it goes as smoothly as possible.



### 4. Maintain a Positive Relationship with Your Contractor

A strained relationship can result in plenty of problems on-site that can delay your renovations. Treat your contractor with respect and be honest with him or her. Be sure to communicate clearly with your contractor so that there are no misunderstandings. A contractor that is treated well will go out of their way to satisfy you.

### 5. Make Sure Everything is Written Down

Before beginning your remodeling project, you should make sure that everything you have discussed with your contractor has been written down in a contract. This includes the start and end dates, the cost of the project, your name



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# ARE YOU PREPARED?

**W**hat exactly are you supposed to do the day you find your basement flooded?

Plumbing emergencies can be scary, particularly as the cost of water damage to your home and other property can be more expensive than the plumbing repairs themselves. If you find yourself facing a plumbing emergency, you need to call a professional plumber right away, but you should first take action to mitigate any damage to your plumbing or the rest of your home.



## Shut the Water Off

In almost all plumbing emergencies, the first thing you should do is stop water from continuing to flow. Know where your main water shutoff valve is, and know where the shutoffs are for individual fixtures

or appliances in your home. Ensure all family members who live in the home also know where it is, and label it with instructions. It's important that this valve works when you need it to – spray the valve stem with lubricant periodically so it operates smoothly in an emergency

## Turn Your Water Heater Off

If your water heater is gas you need to turn the gas to the heater off or turn the unit itself off if you have turned the water off from the main valve. Once the water is off, pressure and hot water build up in the unit. If you don't do this, there is a chance your water heater could burst, causing other problems. It could also simply over-heat, and when the water is used, someone could get badly burned when turning on the hot water for the first time.

## Electrical Concerns

If the flooding is severe, turn off the electricity to the room before entering, and unplug all appliances. If the water has risen to or above the outlets, contact your hydro company immediately to shut off the power to prevent shocks or electrocution.

## Who to Call

Make a list of emergency numbers, including your Homeservice Club membership number, and keep it in an easily accessible place for all members of the household. If you have a security system, be sure to include the monitoring station phone-in details.

## While You're Waiting

Now that you've called in the cavalry, you can start mitigating any further damage to your property. Remove as much water as possible by mopping or using a wet/dry shop-vacuum. Remove area rugs, but wait for the professionals to arrive before attempting to lift wall-to-wall carpeting – they can accomplish this without damaging the carpet

***When disaster strikes, call Home-service Club first – we're available around the clock for emergency service at regular rates, with no overtime or travel charges. You also have the comfort of knowing that the person you are letting into your home in the middle of the night has been pre-screened by the Club, and is bonded, licensed, and insured. Peace of mind is invaluable when you're faced with plumbing, electrical or heating emergencies.***

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