

Finance

- Review your current financial situation to be sure you can **afford renovations**.
- Start saving** well in advance of your project.
- Set aside a certain amount each month by recording a **monthly budget** of your earnings.
- Reduce or eliminate **outstanding debt**. Consider rolling your debt into a **renovation loan**.
- Meet with a **financial advisor** to discuss these options.
- Check your **home insurance policy** for information about renovating.

Construct

- You've settled on a renovation project, **congratulations!**
- Brainstorm, **make sketches**, plans and blueprints before meeting your contractor.
- Be sure that you are **compliant with local laws**. Ask your contractor for more information. Get a planning permit, if necessary.
- Commit to a general contractor** who you can trust and are comfortable with. They will identify the **expert tradesman** you require for each aspect of the renovation. Make a deposit to formalize the work commitment.
- Research your **service providers** before signing contracts.
- Read all **documents and contracts** carefully before signing.
- Keep all papers in a **secure** location.
- Be environmentally responsible and energy efficient. **Make renovations green!**
- Arrange for several required **inspections** throughout the renovation process.
- Work with your contractor to **create a timetable** for when tasks need to be completed.

Plan

- List the renovation projects you are considering in order of **importance**.
- Talk with friends, neighbors, and even realtors about their home renovation **experiences**.
- Look in magazines, catalogs, or open houses to **get some ideas** for your renovation projects.
- Dive into a Google Search or check out sensibuild.ca for **inspiration**.
- Do some research to get **rough estimates** of the cost of the renovations. Or check out Sensibuild's renovation calculator online.
- Check to see how much the renovations would **enhance the value** of your home.
- Prioritize** your renovation project, keeping in mind your budget.

Finalize

- Get material to **protect** walls, floors and furniture during renovation process.
- Check in with the general contractor to **discuss important milestones** and to schedule a detailed walkthrough of your renovation.
- Once renovations are complete, do a **final walk through** with your general contractor and tradesmen for careful inspection.
- Hire a professional **cleaning company** after renovations are complete.
- Find an interior decorator. Or begin to plan your own **decoration project**.
- If you are doing a makeover of the exterior of your house, enlist the help of a **landscaping** company or gardener.
- Be flexible and understanding** if things don't go according to plan, but also know your objectives, budget and timelines.

Renovation Checklist