



# RENOVATION CHECKLIST

## 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](http://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.