

**DANIELS™**  
DESIGN & REMODELING

# THOUGHTS TO CONSIDER PRIOR TO HIRING A HOME REMODELING CONTRACTOR



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*SERVING NORTHERN VIRGINIA*

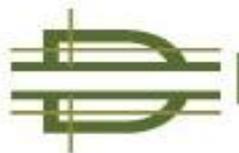
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**FROM THOUGHT TO FINESSE.**

## How to Have a Successful Home Remodeling Project

Whether it's a minor project, such as new flooring, or a large-scale remodel, a renovation project can be a stressful process for any homeowner. Due to project cost and/or possible daily living disruption, it isn't surprising that many homeowners are scared of finding themselves in the middle of potential stress.

Our hope is that this ebook will help you avoid the common mistakes when starting a home remodel and offer some insight into the questions to ask a contractor before you sign on the dotted line.



## **Common Myths Surrounding Home Remodeling**

### **Save Money with DIY**

Many homeowners see the project books at the hardware store, or possibly get misled by any number of renovation project shows, and think “that isn’t so hard.” Suddenly, these “weekend warriors” are taking on projects outside of their skill level.

At first, the project seems less expensive because there are no “labor” costs. Suddenly, a professional is called in to finish the project. Research indicates that close to 20% of do-it-yourself projects end-up requiring a licensed professional.

### **The Lowest Quote Means the Biggest Savings**

As with anything: carpe diem. Often times a contractor will low-ball a quote simply to win a job. But, when the project is underway, the contractor is forced to start cutting corners or using cheaper products.

If a contractor’s bid is substantially lower than other quotes, you should be suspicious as to why.

### **Experience Equals Quality**

Even though a contractor has been in business for a number of years, it doesn’t necessarily mean that they have been doing a good job.

As in any profession, reputation is a key to finding a good contractor. Make certain to get references, check out any current projects and talk to your local Better Business Bureau.

Be aware of a lack of a positive or no BBB rating. Remember, no rating does not automatically equal happy customers- make sure to do your homework.



## **Ensure a Successful Home Remodel**

### **Written Proposal**

Before the first swing of a hammer, it's critical for all parties to fully understand the project and have complete agreement. This can only be accomplished with a written agreement.

Make sure to detail the specifications of the project, any required materials and the financial obligations of both the homeowner & contractor.

### **Good Communication**

Make sure to constantly talk to your contractor throughout the project. You don't want to walk away from your home and be surprised when you return. You will want to regularly talk to your contractor to ask questions about the progress and any unexpected issues.

### **Level of Trust**

Even though you will have a good open communication with your contractor, there needs to be a level of trust between in the relationship. If you don't feel comfortable leaving your home in the hands of your contractor, you may need to reevaluate your selection.



## **Details**

The devil is in the details – a project will have any number of details, from the materials being used, the schedule, or the process of making changes.

Make sure to understand when work will start, how many workers will be in your house, whether workers will be able to use the facilities. Also, make sure to list out to the contractor if there needs to be extra concern for any pets or children in the house.

While communication is a priority during the project, spelling out any concerns upfront will avoid any issues that may arise.

## **Financial Agreements**

The last part to address prior to project kick-off is the financial aspect of the project. Prior to the project start date, it is important to agree on the down payment, the payment schedule, who is responsible for materials, and the method of payment.



## Great Contractors Do Great Jobs

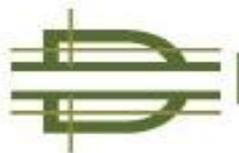
### The best contractors will:

- ❖ Treat you with respect
- ❖ Work with you on design, materials, and colors
- ❖ Provide a clear and understandable contract with a reasonable timeline
- ❖ Supply a list of all materials used
- ❖ Be licensed and only hire reputable and experienced subcontractors
- ❖ Carry workman's comp and liability insurance
- ❖ Communicate with you throughout the entire project
- ❖ Guarantee their work
- ❖ Have a permanent business address



## Questions to Help You Choose the Right Contractor

- ❖ Are you properly licensed on both the city and state level?
- ❖ Do you have general liability and workman's compensation insurance?
- ❖ Will you provide a written lien waiver?
- ❖ Are the subcontractors utilized licensed and insured?
- ❖ Are you a member of the NAHB and/or NARI?
- ❖ Do you take care of required building permits?
- ❖ Do you guarantee your work? If so, how long?
- ❖ Who will be in charge of the project?
- ❖ Can you provide written references?
- ❖ How is the cleanup handled?
- ❖ Is your contractor's appearance neat?



## About Daniels Design & Remodeling

Daniels Design and Remodeling (DD&R) is Northern Virginia's premier "boutique" home renovations firm, with a dedicated team of design and construction professionals. Most of us grew up right here in the area and learned our trades from top-level local builders, trade schools and/or universities. Not one of us takes our jobs or our clients for granted. We hold your trust at the highest value.

At Daniels Design and Remodeling, our managers and carpenters each bring unique backgrounds and expertise to your home project. We are talented designers, production specialists, carpenters, masons, and skilled tradesmen with decades of experience between us. We're excited to have multiple awards for design, construction, and outstanding business acumen and voted as one of the "Top 25 Best Remodeling Companies to Work For" (Professional Remodeling magazine Jan, 2005).

We have been creating Award-winning remodeling projects in the Northern Virginia area for over 18 years. In 2013, 2014, 2015 & 2016, Daniels Design and Remodeling (DDR) received Houzz's 'Best Of Houzz' Awards, Multiple GuildMaster of Excellence Awards, Multiple COTY (Contractor of the Year) Awards and an Angie's List 2013-14 Super Service Awards.

Thank you for taking the time to read this important information. We are committed to educating consumers by helping them insure they have a good remodeling experience.

Good luck with your remodeling plans!

**To Schedule an Appt: Contact Daniels Design & Remodeling:**  
**(703) 239-2700**    **[www.danielsremodeling.com](http://www.danielsremodeling.com)**

