



Top tips for a stress-free renovation

Putting your greatest investment (your home!) in expert hands shouldn't be stressful. Reduce anxiety and get the most out of your home reno with these top tips.

10 quick questions to ask your contractor BEFORE renovating

Gain confidence by asking friends to recommend top-notch contractors. Then narrow the pool and set expectations with these 10 must-ask questions.

1. **Cost:** Is your quote an estimate or fixed price, and what's the payment schedule?
2. **Supervision:** Who will supervise the job site and how many hours a day/week will they be here?
3. **Permits:** Who will get the permits and co-ordinate inspections?
4. **Protection:** Do you have full liability insurance for people and materials? Beyond insurance, how will you protect my property (for example, if you're adding an addition and it rains)?
5. **Timing:** What's your start-to-finish schedule, and when will I be needed on site?
6. **Communication:** How will you communicate updates to me, and how can I reach you after hours?
7. **Experience:** How many years of experience do you have or similar projects have you completed, and can I visit one of your past projects?
8. **Employees:** Do you work with the same pool of subcontractors/construction workers on every project, or will there be new folks?
9. **Savings:** How can I save some money? For example, can I buy some supplies myself?
10. **Codes:** Are you up-to-date on all current building codes, and how will you handle any violations/changes if the project doesn't meet code (important for older homes)?

3 tips to ensure your renovation increases your home's value

Renovating should increase the value of your home, but it doesn't always. Consider three things before you start:

1. **Your neighbourhood's market value.** Will an expensive open-concept main floor reno put your home's value *above* the market value in your neighbourhood?
2. **Future buyers.** Even if you're not planning to sell soon, it's wise to think of your project in terms of what *most* buyers would want. For example, eliminating a bedroom to expand another room may not appeal to every buyer, especially those with families.
3. **Return on investment.** Some renos add insta-value, like updating kitchens and bathrooms, adding square footage, or changing carpet to hardwood. Likewise, replacement renos – like swapping out an old roof or rotten deck – are smart.

Renovations can affect your home insurance

Once the work is completed, we can take a look at your upgraded new home to ensure the estimated replacement value is correct.

Your home holds everyone and everything you love and value most. [Talk to us](#) about how to protect your greatest investment, so you can get back to enjoying what matters.



Want maximum insurance savings?

5 ways to save more AND reduce your risk of water damage:

1. Install an automatic water shut-off system.
2. Consult a plumber to see if a backwater valve or adding an automatic backup to your sump pump is right for your basement.
3. Extend downspouts to direct water away from your home.
4. Older roof? Replace it if there are signs of deterioration.
5. If renovating your basement, ensure window wells are up to code and any foundation leaks are addressed. Or, skip the basement reno if you're in a flood-prone zone.

Learn more about preventing property loss due to water at [water.cooperators.ca](https://www.water.cooperators.ca).

