

# Complete Guide to Choosing a Home Remodeling Company

Practical tips to avoid the common pitfalls that  
cause delays and cost overruns.

by *Tim Winter*





## NOTE FROM TIM:

# Why a remodeling guide?

I wrote this guide because I believe that custom remodeling is a wonderful opportunity for homeowners to create a space that truly reflects their style and meets their functional needs.

As President and Founder of Paradigm Homes, I have seen many homeowners struggle with the process of custom home remodeling, whether it's staying on schedule, staying on budget, or simply not knowing where to start.

I want to share my expertise and experience with you to make the process as smooth and enjoyable as possible. I understand that remodeling can be overwhelming, and I hope this guide will provide the information and advice you need to make informed decisions and get the home of your dreams.

I've included my personal tips and tricks that I learned throughout my 20+ years of experience in the industry. I believe that with the right planning, communication and a realistic approach, your remodeling project can be a wonderful experience that will bring you and your family years of enjoyment in your beautiful new home.

I hope you find this guide helpful and informative. If you have any further questions or need assistance, please don't hesitate to [reach out to me or my team at Paradigm Homes](#).

Best,

Tim Winter  
President / Founder – Paradigm Homes

# What is Custom Remodeling?

*Before diving into the specific challenges of staying on schedule and within budget, let's first define custom remodeling.*

Custom remodeling refers to any renovation project that is tailored to your specific needs and preferences.

This could include anything from a kitchen renovation to a whole-house remodel.

## **SOME EXAMPLES OF CUSTOM REMODELING PROJECTS INCLUDE:**

- A kitchen remodel that involves tearing down walls to create an open-concept layout
- A bathroom renovation that includes the addition of a spa tub and steam shower
- A whole-house remodel that modernizes the layout and adds a second story

## **BENEFITS OF CUSTOM REMODELING**

The benefits of custom remodeling are numerous. For one, it allows you to create a space that truly reflects your style and meets your functional needs.

For example, if you love to cook, a custom kitchen remodel might include high-end appliances and ample storage space. Or, if you're looking to increase the value of your home, custom remodeling can be a smart investment.

Custom remodeling can also make your home more efficient and comfortable to live in. For example, adding insulation and energy-efficient windows during a whole-house remodel can help lower your home's energy bills.



# Planning Your Custom Remodel

*The key to a successful custom remodel is thorough planning. Here are some steps to follow as you begin the process:*

- **Get clear on your goals:** What do you want to achieve with your custom remodel? Do you want to create more open living space? Update your kitchen with modern appliances? Add a second story to your home? Make a list of your top priorities to help guide your decision-making.
- **Determine your budget:** Custom remodeling can be expensive, so it's important to have a realistic understanding of what you can afford. Don't forget to leave room in your budget for unexpected expenses that may come up during the renovation process.
- **Research contractors:** Look for a contractor who has experience with custom remodeling projects and can provide references from past clients. Consider getting estimates from multiple contractors to compare prices and services.
- **Discuss your vision with your contractor:** Once you've selected a contractor, sit down with them to discuss your vision for the project in detail. Make sure to address any concerns or questions you have, and work together to create a plan that meets your needs and budget.
- **Review the contract:** Before signing any agreements, make sure you understand the terms of the contract. This should include the scope of work, timeline, payment schedule, and any contingencies. Don't be afraid to negotiate terms that you're not comfortable with.



# Staying On Schedule

*One of the biggest challenges of custom remodeling is ensuring that the project is completed on time. Delays can be costly and cause frustration for homeowners. Here are some tips for keeping your project on schedule:*



- **Communicate with your contractor:** Good communication is key to keeping your project on track. Make sure to stay in touch with your contractor and provide timely responses to any requests or questions.
- **Set clear expectations:** It's important to set realistic expectations for the timeline of your project. Work with your contractor to establish a schedule that takes into account any contingencies and allows for unforeseen challenges.
- **Be flexible:** Despite your best efforts, there may be unforeseen delays or challenges that arise during the renovation process. Try to be flexible and open to finding solutions to keep the project moving forward.

# Staying On Budget

*In addition to staying on schedule, it's important to ensure that your custom remodel stays within budget.*



## WAYS TO AVOID COST OVERRUNS:

- **Set a realistic budget:** Before you begin the remodeling process, make sure you have a clear understanding of what you can afford. Don't forget to leave room in your budget for unexpected expenses that may come up during the renovation process.
- **Get detailed estimates:** Work with your remodeler to get detailed estimates for all aspects of the project, including labor, materials, and any subcontractors. This will help you understand the full cost of the project and identify any potential budget-busters.
- **Consider financing options:** If you don't have the full amount of the budget available upfront, consider financing options such as a home equity loan or a construction loan. Just be sure to factor in the cost of financing into your overall budget.
- **Be prepared for changes:** As with any construction project, there is always the possibility of changes or additions to the scope of work. Make sure to carefully review and approve any changes to the project, and be aware of how they may impact your budget.



# Common Pitfalls of Home Remodeling

*A lot can go wrong when working with a remodeling company to renovate your home. Know about them in advance and be prepared.*

- Lack of proper planning and budgeting, leading to cost overruns
- Not having a plan for contingencies and emergencies during the renovation process
- Not being realistic about the renovation's timeline and not allowing enough time for unexpected delays
- Hiring a contractor without proper experience or qualifications
- Not taking into account the impact of the renovation on the overall value of the house
- Failing to obtain necessary permits and inspections
- Not keeping the original character and style of the home in mind during the renovation process
- Not communicating effectively with all parties involved in the renovation process
- Ignoring building codes and zoning regulations
- Not considering the impact of the renovation on the energy efficiency and environmental impact of the home
- Not paying attention to the quality of the workmanship and materials used
- Not having a clear plan for the disposal of debris and waste generated during the renovation
- Not having a plan for where you will live during the renovation if it is a whole-house renovation
- Not considering the potential impact of the renovation on the neighborhood and community

## MAKE SURE YOUR RENOVATION COMPANY ACCOUNTS FOR THESE DETAILS

- Lighting fixtures and switches placement
- Electrical outlets and their location
- Ventilation and air circulation
- Room layout and flow
- Storage space and organization
- The placement and size of windows and skylights
- Soundproofing and acoustics
- Accessibility and safety features, such as handrails and slip-resistant flooring
- The quality of the paint and the finish
- The flow of the water and drainage in the bathroom and kitchen
- The color coordination and matching of materials
- Heating and cooling needs of the new space

# Project Worksheet

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Choosing the right remodeling company can be a daunting task. Use this worksheet to help you in the selection process:

## Define your project:

Clearly outline the scope of work, including any specific details or requirements.

## Research potential contractors:

List the companies that specialize in the type of remodeling you're interested in. Look for online reviews, check the company's website and portfolio, and ask for references.

## Check for communication and customer service:

Ask how they will communicate important project info to you? How often will they provide updates? Will they provide photo updates to keep you informed?

## Schedule consultations:

Schedule consultations with at least three different companies and ask for detailed proposals and estimates.



# Project Checklist

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You can use this checklist to keep track of your progress and ensure you have all the necessary information before making a decision. Keep in mind that the right remodeling company can make all the difference in the success of your project, so take your time and don't hesitate to ask questions.

- Define your project**
- Research potential contractors**
- Check for proper licensing and insurance**
- Schedule consultations**
- Compare proposals**
- Look for experience and certifications**
- Check for communication and customer service**
- Ask for a detailed contract**
- Review the company's warranty or guarantee policy**
- Make a decision**





# About Paradigm Homes

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At Paradigm Homes, we understand the challenges of custom remodeling and are committed to helping our clients stay on time and on budget.

We're confident that our team of experienced professionals will work with you every step of the way to ensure that your remodeling project is a success.

[Contact us today](#) for a consultation to determine if we're a good fit for your project. Or take a look at [some of the projects we've completed](#) and get inspired.

