

# Do's & Don'ts of Remodeling

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**A** remodeling project can be an exciting and gratifying occurrence. Not only can it add stylish new space and amenities to your home that make life more enjoyable, but it can also increase your home's value. To better ensure a positive experience, I recommend following these important guidelines:

## DO

- Take time to carefully select the remodeling firm with whom you plan to work.
- Use a design/build firm to handle both the design and construction phases of your project.
- Look for certification and membership in professional organizations, such as NARI and NKBA.
- Find out how long the firm has been in business and if it has experience with the type of project you have in mind.
- Obtain client references and, if possible, visit ongoing and previously completed projects.
- Define your expectations and from the outset make them clear to the remodeling team.
- Look for a firm that will adjust to the needs of you and your family. Flexibility in a remodeling firm is paramount.
- Determine your budget, so you and the team will be able to develop a realistic plan.
- Collect pictures of rooms and items that appeal to you, so your firm's designer will know how to guide the design of the project and the product selections. Working out details before construction commences is vital.
- Look for a firm that actively participates in product selection – preferably one in which the designer visits showrooms with you. This will help you navigate the maze of products and options with which you may be confronted.

## DON'T

- Don't contract with someone with whom you are uncomfortable or fail to connect.
- Don't expect miracles overnight. Remodeling is a process that takes time.
- Don't get discouraged. Remember, construction is only a temporary disruption.
- Don't give up on your dreams. If you can envision it, it can happen!

The three most important rules of remodeling are: COMMUNICATE, COMMUNICATE and COMMUNICATE. You must convey your wants and needs to your remodeling team, and they will reciprocate. Establishing this kind of relationship right from the beginning will ensure a much smoother, more enjoyable remodeling experience. If you have any questions, please email me at [Lynne@HUBdesignbuild.com](mailto:Lynne@HUBdesignbuild.com). 

*Lynne Stephenson and her husband Mark, are co-owners of HUB Design/Build located in Villanova. HUB Design/Build is a full • service professional design and remodeling firm which has operated in the area for over 15 years. Lynne is a member of NKBA. She also belongs to NARI, the National Association of Remodeling Industry, and holds two certifications: Certified Remodeler and Certified Kitchen and Bath Remodeler. Lynne currently serves as the 2005 President of the DelChester NARI Chapter.*