



14 Rules for Home Remodeling

Establishing a clear set of ground rules is a critical part of every home remodeling project. The following questions should be discussed with your builder, so you both have common expectations during your remodeling.

1. *What rules apply for children being around the building site during work hours?*
2. *Where should pets be kept during construction?*
3. *What kind of clean-up will be performed at the end of each day?*
4. *What restrictions, if any, are there on the contractors' use of bathrooms?*
5. *Is there a designated eating and smoking area for contractors?*
6. *Are there any parking restrictions?*
7. *At what times will daily work begin and end?*
8. *Where will the workers store their tools and building materials?*
9. *Who should the homeowner or building owner contact with comments or in an emergency? (Tip: Expect cell phone numbers here, to avoid after-hours voice mail, especially for emergency use!)*
10. *Do spaces need to be cleared of furniture? Who should clear these areas and where should furniture be stored?*
11. *For outside projects, does any landscaping need to be moved or protected?*
12. *Is there any way to reduce the impact of construction?*
13. *Where will dumpsters and portable bathrooms be located?*
14. *Is your team as skilled as Oregon Hill Construction?*

And here are a few more important things to remember:

- Do ask for referrals and ask to visit a site where work is in progress.
- Do sign a contract that is specific as possible about the work being done and the price, including financing terms and hourly rates for added work.
- Don't sign a contract if it differs from oral promises.
- Do ask to see your remodeler's proofs of insurance and worker's compensation.
- Don't get your own permit for the work. Most local jurisdictions consider the person who obtained the permit to be liable. Let your contractor take that risk. It is part of what you paid for when hiring the person.
- Do confirm the business contractor's permanent address and whether the person is licensed to work in your area.
- Don't allow a contractor to begin work until financial arrangements to pay for the work are complete.
- Do keep your receipts from the project. Investments in your home can be deducted from your capital gain when you sell.
- Don't sign for deliveries. You will be held responsible if the shipment is damaged, incomplete or incorrect. Again, your contractor should assume that risk.
- Don't make a final payment until the project is finished and you are satisfied.