

# PLANNING A REMODEL LIKE A PRO

## A step-by-step guide with Hardt Construction

CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY EXPERT TIM HARDT OF Hardt Construction Services (HCS) delivers a step-by-step guide on how to realistically prepare for a remodel and where to start to turn your dream home into a reality.

### So, where do I begin?

Planning! The most crucial step of a remodel is proper planning and preparation to increase your chances of achieving a successful project.

First, identify the areas of your home you wish to improve. Does your kitchen need an update, or your master bathroom need a facelift? How about more space to entertain guests? Once you have a clear vision of what you want to achieve, organize your needs versus wants per area — this will ensure that your project stays on track and the most significant aspects of the remodel are focused on.

Tim Hardt advises, “This can be a simple list; remember you don’t have to have all the answers up front. Your contractor should be able to fill in the gaps and provide guidance. Then set a budget for each area and outline an approximate cost to remodel kitchens, bathrooms, or any additions.”

To steer clear of any disagreements during the project, have a conversation with your significant other to ensure that you’re on the same page with remodel goals before calling a contractor.

### Create a project budget

Coming up with remodel estimate costs can be challenging; however, there are plenty of online resources to help guide you on what kind of figures to expect.

For instance, the company Zonda publishes an outline of approximate costs to remodel kitchens, bathrooms and additions, according to state and county.

The next step is to secure an estimate vs. fixed price proposal. It’s imperative to have plans, specifications and material selections when requesting an estimate.

Tim comments, “Well-established contractors usually have in-house designers who can help you lay out, design and select your materials to generate a more accurate proposal.”

### Find a contractor that’s right for you

Once you’ve established your remodel’s scope and budget, then it’s time to find the right contractor to fit the project.

Hardt says, “Research your local contractors first — make



## Thank you, Bakersfield!

sure to look at their reviews, social media and the type of work they do on a regular basis.” Friends and family can also be an excellent source of information, but keep in mind that their preferences may differ from yours.

Make sure to look out for any red flags before settling on a contractor, such as using someone else’s contractor license or asking you to purchase the materials for the job. The Contractors State License Board is another great resource to verify if the contractor’s license is in good standing, or if they have any violations.

Hardt continues, “Once you have it narrowed down to two to three contractors, then schedule interviews with each one — ask lots of questions and compare notes.”

### How do I come up with a design?

Some contractors will recommend finding a designer or architect to help you design your project, however this can lead to issues if there are any discrepancies between the design and the construction process.

Hardt suggests, “Find a contractor that can facilitate all



aspects of your project in-house so any issues can be sorted before starting the remodel.”

### The takeaway

Following this step-by-step guide can lead to a seamless remodel with results you can ultimately take pride in for years to come.

Hardt’s key takeaway to a successful project: “Conduct your due diligence up front, organize your thoughts, be realistic and don’t rush the process.” ■

# HCS

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