



Remodeling Your Home Safely During COVID-19

The pandemic has upended many activities; however, contractors are continuing to work to modernize homes across the country. Professional remodelers are taking on extra safety precautions to help meet the needs of home owners during the pandemic. If you're interested in remodeling your home, consider the following steps to help put your mind at ease, so you can comfortably start your next home remodeling project.

- **Find a Professional Remodeler that Prioritizes Safety** - If you're ready to start your remodeling project, you'll want to work with a professional committed to keeping you and your family safe during a remodel. The best place to start is by utilizing a directory of professional remodelers. The National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) has a directory of professional remodelers dedicated to the highest professional and safety standards during the pandemic.
- **Ask Questions About Safety Precautions** - After you've narrowed down your list of potential professional remodelers, ask questions related to safety. A qualified remodeler will be forthright and answer any questions you may have about personal protective equipment, social distancing while in your home and other concerns about sanitation or other potential hazards.
- **Establish an Online Communication Channel** - When you're working with a professional remodeler, you'll have to discuss details about your project from evaluating your design ideas to agreeing to the scope of work. Talk to your remodeler about what areas of the planning process can be discussed online instead of meeting in person. Some remodelers may even request a virtual tour of your home through a video call. Photos, design ideas, measurements and estimates can also be shared electronically. If you must meet with your contractor in person, practice social distancing and wear a face covering.
- **Discuss Your Living Arrangements During Construction** - If you're working from home or if you have kids who are distance learning, tell your contractor. A professional will provide guidance on how to minimize significant disruptions, including those related to plumbing or electrical work. If you have small children, most professionals will be willing to remove tools at the end of each work day or be placed out of reach as an extra safety precaution. A contractor can also erect temporary walls to minimize dust in your primary living areas.

The most important thing to remember if you're moving forward with a remodeling project during the pandemic is to keep an open line of communication with your contractor via video conference or phone call and be flexible. Your remodeler may take extra time to ensure extensive cleaning while undergoing your project. Due to the nature of the pandemic, other unexpected delays may occur. A dose of extra patience may be required during this time, but a professional remodeler will remain committed to safety without jeopardizing quality workmanship.

**For more information on home renovations, referrals for trade professionals or
any other questions please contact the Builders Association at 814-833-3999.**