

5 TIPS FROM A PRO

EMBARKING ON A KITCHEN OR BATH RENO? READ ON FOR SMART SUGGESTIONS FROM INTERIOR DESIGNERS THAT WILL KEEP YOU SANE THROUGH THE PROCESS



5 TIPS FOR A KITCHEN REDESIGN

FROM INTERIOR DESIGNER AGNES MOSER OF SENGA INTERIOR DESIGN

About Agnes Moser: This interior designer comes by the profession naturally—growing up, she watched her parents remodel their old Swiss farm house. Moser's interest in reworking spaces stuck with her, and helped to inform her design style today.

- 1 **THINK FUNCTION**
"The kitchen is essentially a work place, so function is the most important part of a successful remodel. Ask yourself: how you will be using the space? Will you have one cook or two? Do you entertain a lot? Would a second fridge, microwave, or sink make sense? Consider how you will use the space before making decisions."
- 2 **HELP, PLEASE!**
"Be open to suggestions from your designer. They have created dozens of spaces, and they may come up with suggestions you have not yet considered."
- 3 **HAVE FUN WITH MATERIALS**
"Your eyes may glaze over when you see dozens of granite slabs and hundreds of tile options, so let the professionals help you with the final material selection. They will help you cut through the maze and come up with a beautiful and personal space."
- 4 **CONTRACTING PROFESSIONALS**
"Get at least three bids and make sure everyone is bidding off the same scope of work. It *does* make a difference to the tile setter how intricate the tile design is when he bids that part of the job."
- 5 **PRACTICE PATIENCE**
"Remember, some of the 'horror stories' may seem like huge problems, but in the end, they are just that: stories. Try to relax and approach everything with a smile on your face. A call to the professional can often put everything into perspective. And those horror stories will be good anecdotes to share at the first party!"

5 THINGS TO KNOW BEFORE BEGINNING YOUR BATHROOM REMODEL

FROM INTERIOR DESIGNER PATRICIA DAVIS BROWN OF PDB DESIGN

About Patricia Davis Brown: Brown knows her way around a bathroom. For 18 years, her work focused exclusively on designing functional and beautiful baths (and kitchens, too). Davis Brown even lectures on the merits of excellent bath design, so she's the perfect person to offer up a few pointers on bathroom upgrades.

- 1 **HAVE A PLAN**
"Most people make the mistake of going to the builder first, but a professional plan puts the ball in your court. This allows the homeowner to get accurate bids and be able to determine if the project is in their budget. If you find you're out of budget, then you are able to value engineer it by substituting less expensive materials to bring the cost into budget."
- 2 **DON'T FORGET THE LIGHTING**
"Every room needs good lighting, but the kitchen and bathroom are the rooms that need a layered lighting plan. A layered lighting plan covers general lighting, task lighting, and ambient lighting for the multiple purposes of a bathroom."
- 3 **DO YOUR RESEARCH**
"You do not want to date yourself on a brand new remodel by putting in last year's trends, so stay on top of the latest products and technologies for the bathroom. One of the good things about using a professional designer is they are in the know on the latest looks and will bring them to you."
- 4 **BE PREPARED FOR BIDDING**
"I recommend bidding with three different builders or subcontractors so you can get a good picture of what the bids should be. And remember, the lowest bid is not always the right one."
- 5 **ASK FOR REFERENCES**
"A full bathroom remodel takes about three months to complete in full, so you want to make sure that you pick the right contractor to work with. I always recommend asking for three references before I consider hiring such an important person. And before you meet with anyone, make sure they are licensed and insured."