



Keeping Remodeling Costs Down

Nothing can ruin your day faster than having to settle for less than your dream remodeling project.

Here are some things that can keep your project in line with your vision – and your budget:

Be Flexible

There may be several ways to achieve the desired result, and some are more expensive than others. Be creative, and discuss the pros and cons of different methods or materials with your designer or contractor.

Lay It On The Line

Before you rip out that first piece of trim, make sure you and your contractor agree, *in writing*, on the work to be done. The *Statement of Work* should spell out exactly what you want to do. Specify materials, sizes, dimensions, deadlines, etc.

Communication is a two-way street: you telling the contractor what you want to do, and the contractor getting the message exactly the way you intended it.

Draw it out, or invest in a set of plans. Design specs can even be listed on a simple sheet of paper. When in doubt, spell it out! Redoing a job due to a miscommunication is a costly, irritating, and unnecessary expense.

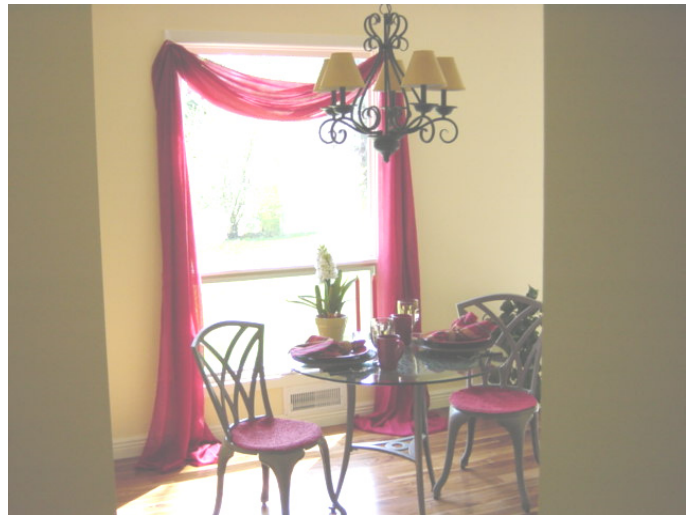
Hmmmm, While I'm at It...

It's easy to get carried away with planning your dream room. The most typical thought

you will find yourself having is, "As long as I'm doing *this*, I should change *that* while I'm at it...."

Maybe all you need is new paint. Before you sign up for extensive changes ask yourself, "Does this room just need a simple facelift?"

Paint is the easiest way to change your look on a budget, and you can very often do it yourself. room carpet to remain as-is.



Keep Windows the Same Size

Is it time to replace your windows? It's tempting to change sizes or locations. But be sure to consider the "ripple effect" on your walls.

Moving or resizing a window requires new window trim, plus patching and painting the walls. And you could end up with extra costs to repair or replace the siding. (This could be *very* costly if your siding is no longer available.)

Ask about the consequences of window changes, and be sure to budget for them, as well.