Think your remodeling project through from start to finish. Careful planning of your home improvement projects will enable you to update your home, increase the value of your investment and customize your living space; all for a lot less than the cost of a new home.

Look over your property carefully. What repairs are needed? What improvements would you like to make? Think ahead and determine your future needs. Professional remodeling contractors can help you in your planning by outlining options and discussing the improvements you can make within your budget.

Be sure to review your homeowner’s insurance policy and make adjustments for the added value of the work being done.

Proper Planning is Important

Think About Design and Function

Design and function should be foremost in your mind if you’re thinking of adding a room or converting an existing room. Give thought to details such as: where you want electrical outlets, telephone jacks and cable hook-ups located, the type of lighting required, your current and future storage needs, and whether you want to include luxury items. These details will enable your remodel to better suit your needs and lifestyle should be considered at design and function. He or she can also help you with time and money-saving hints.

Proper Planning is Essential

Think about the guidelines provided here to select a professional remodeling contractor. NARI members have access to the latest information in the industry through publications, educational programs and seminars, and conferences.

The NARI professional remodeler pledges to uphold the association’s strict Code of Ethics and is dedicated to advocate professionalism and integrity. For more information, or to locate a NARI professional in your area:

Visit www.RemodelToday.com
Call your local NARI Chapter
Call NARI National at 800-611-NARI (6274)

Choose a Course of Action

The National Association of the Remodeling Industry (NARI), the only independent association dedicated to the remodeling industry, is a not-for-profit trade association with more than 50 years of industry experience. NARI represents professional remodeling contractors, product manufacturers, distributors, wholesalers, trade publications, attorneys and lending institutions. NARI is committed to enhancing the professionalism of the remodeling industry and serving as an ally to homeowners.

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There are various financing plans available to homeowners. Among the most popular is the equity line of credit that bases the loan amount on the equity in your home.

Available through the Federal Housing Administration (FHA) are loans specifically for home improvements, which are available through many lending institutions. The FHA, however, requires that lender approve the contractor. The FHA does not guarantee the contractor’s work. Some institutions will allow you to borrow against the anticipated equity in your home once your remodeling project is complete.

A professional remodeling contractor is familiar with available financing options and can help. Research various sources of funding to compare individual qualification guidelines, interest rates, terms and tax considerations.

Before work begins, ask your contractor what inconveniences may occur while the project is under way and plan for them accordingly. Be sure your contractor is aware of vacations or special events so that he or she may schedule appropriately.

Move personal property from work areas and declare all work zones off-limits to children and pets.

Be sure to put all changes in writing if your remodeling project is modified while work is being done. Both parties should sign the amendment, called a “change order.”

Keep a job file including contract, plans, specifications, invoices, change orders and all correspondence with the contractor.

Request a contractor’s Affidavit of Final Release be provided to you at the time you make final payment and a final waiver of mechanic’s lien. This is your assurance that you will not be liable for any third-party claims for non-payment of materials or subcontractors.

Each NARI member promises to observe high standards of honesty, integrity and responsibility in the conduct of business:

- Promoting only those products and services that are functionally and economically sound, and which are consistent with objective standards of health and safety.
- Making all advertising and sales promotional factually accurate with respect to product description, performance specifications and cost benefit analysis, and by avoiding the practices which tend to mislead or deceive the customer with respect to competitive pricing, savings claims, or the nature and significance of contracts, warranties, finance agreements, completion certificates, lien waivers, or liability and workers’ compensation insurance.
- Writing all contracts and warranties such that they are fair and mutually beneficial to all parties concerned.
- Honoring all contractual obligations until and unless they are altered or dissolved by the mutual consent of all contractual parties concerned.
- Promptly acknowledging and acting on any customer complaints.
- Refraining from any act intended to restrain trade or suppress competition, and thereby promoting the private enterprise system.

View NARI’s full code of ethics at www.RemodelToday.com and click on “ABOUT.”