

HOUSEPLAY

RENOVATIONS



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Get Ready to Renovate: Top 10 Tips

1. **Start with your vision ... not a free quote.** Get really clear for yourself what you want for your space, before you ever call in a contractor to give you a quote on the work.
2. **A fixer-upper will not save you money.** Unless you do all the work yourself. (See our [Myth Debunked post on this topic!](#))
3. **Prioritize projects that give you the most pleasure.** The return on your renovation investment - for a home you're planning to live in for 5+ years - is mostly intangible. [Get our favorite questions to help you prioritize here.](#)
4. **Be wary of the cheapest bid.** We've seen homeowners hire a contractor at a very low price, only to have them walk off the job because they underbid.
5. **Take your online budget research with a grain of salt.** Sites like Houzz and HomeAdvisor make money from leads. They can get more leads by posting low average renovation numbers. (See [Avoid These Budget Renovation Pitfalls.](#))
6. **Match the quality of your renovation to the overall value of your home and to the housing market in which you live.** Certain housing markets automatically expect higher-quality fixtures and finishes.
7. **Choose the contractor you want to work with ... before you even meet with them.** We share all our reasons why in our post [Choosing a Contractor.](#)
8. **Play around with style.** Get our tools for [identifying your personal home style here.](#)
9. **Whenever possible ... move out during your renovation.** Home renovations are stressful. Moving out of your space, if it's even remotely feasible, will make yours go much more smoothly.
10. **Finance smart.** We've seen lots of hearts broken, including a family who inherited a mortgage-free house, refinanced it to renovate, then could not afford the payments. We interviewed a mortgage lender to bring you the best tips on [how to finance your home renovation.](#)

Houseplay Renovations is currently accepting new clients for home renovations in the northern New Jersey / Rockland County NY area. [Get in touch here.](#)