



Remodeling Survivor Strategies

A Little Planning Can Make Living Through Your Remodel a Whole Lot Easier



Then comes the part no one can design away: *construction*

These practical strategies can help maintain some sense of normalcy, and even allow you to enjoy watching your new home take shape





You had a vision. Design revealed what your home could become - how it could function, feel and reflect the way you live. CPH's renderings and videos brought that vision to life, and you finally said, "Let's do this."

For a while, the familiar rhythms of home life will change. There will be noise and dust, people coming and going, rooms temporarily off limits, and those moments when something you need seems to be sitting just on the other side of a plastic dust barrier.

Prepare Before the First Hammer Swings

The best time to figure out how you'll live through a remodel is before demolition begins. Three actions • • • think **"T. A. C."**

T – Talk. Talk with your contractor about:

- Which areas of the home will be affected
- Which entrances the construction team will use
- Staging, parking and material-delivery needs
- Which portions of the house will remain accessible to you

Knowing what to expect, and where, is half the battle.

A – Act.

- Remove valuables, fragile items and anything you use regularly from the construction area
- Don't assume you'll be able to simply "run in and grab something." Once construction begins, access may be inconvenient, restricted or unsafe

Knowing what to expect, and where, is half the battle.

Act ahead when you can. Relocate everyday necessities. Small preparations made before construction can prevent weeks of frustration.

Stock the freezer before. One of the easiest, and most useful, things you can do before construction starts is cook ahead.

- Make extra portions of meals you already enjoy and freeze them in meal-sized, microwave-safe containers.
- When you arrive home after a long day, dinner can be ready in minutes instead of requiring another round of decisions.
- And give yourself permission to occasionally order pizza.



C – Contemplate. Life During Construction

Think through the ordinary routines you rarely give a second thought to: making coffee, feeding the dog, doing laundry, charging your phone, getting ready for work. **Where will those things happen during construction?**

Consider how you use and move through your home now, then temporarily rearrange what you need before construction begins. Sometimes the smartest move is simply relocating something before you need it.

Contemplate the Impact for Your Young and Four-Legged Residents

- Construction sites can be enticing - and unsafe - for children and pets.
- Before work begins, decide how they will be separated from construction areas and make the arrangement practical enough to succeed every day. Don't underestimate the impact of noise, unfamiliar people and activity.
- A normally relaxed dog may react very differently when demolition begins on the other side of the wall. Children's curiosity may also increase when an ordinary room suddenly becomes an off-limits construction zone.
- If their usual space is affected, create a temporary space of their own elsewhere, with familiar toys, belongings and comforts. A play tent is often beloved as their "own space".

A little advance planning can protect both your peace of mind and theirs.

Protect One Construction-Free Zone

After a day surrounded by construction activity, decisions and dust, having one place that still feels like home can make a surprising difference.

If possible, preserve one area that remains construction-free. The rules are simple: **no boxes, samples, tools or debris.**

Make it comfortable. Keep your favorite chair, television, books and familiar things there. It becomes your retreat - a small reminder that although your home is under construction, your life doesn't have to be.



Kitchen Remodel

Create a Temporary Kitchen That Actually Works

The kitchen is the heart of the home, and losing it can be one of the biggest adjustments during a remodel. A thoughtfully planned temporary kitchen can make all the difference.

Choose a location away from the construction area. A dining room, laundry room, basement, bonus room or even part of the garage may work.

You don't need to recreate your kitchen. You need a temporary setup that makes it possible to comfortably manage coffee, breakfast, lunch and an easy dinner.

Consider:

- Small or existing refrigerator
- Coffee maker
- Microwave
- Appropriate countertop cooking appliance
- Toaster or toaster oven
- Small work surface
- Basic utensils

A few dishes, glasses and mugs

- Food-storage containers
- Trash and recycling containers
- Paper plates and disposable products for particularly hectic days
- Convenient access to water, if possible

And keep it together.

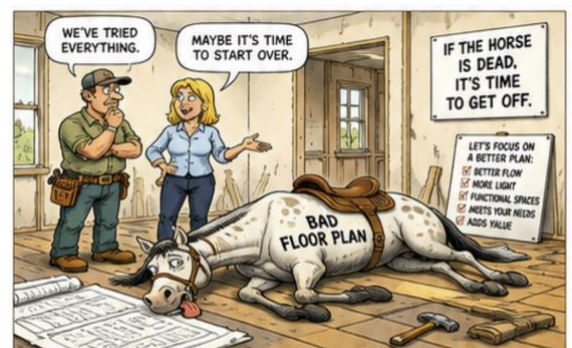
A microwave in one room, the refrigerator in another and the coffee maker somewhere else may seem manageable on Day One. By Week Three, you'll wonder why you designed your temporary kitchen as a scavenger hunt.

Expect the Unexpected

Every home has a history - and much of it is hidden behind the walls.

Opening a wall may reveal an unexpected plumbing line, outdated wiring, a previous repair or a structural condition no one could see beforehand. These surprises are part of remodeling. They don't necessarily mean something has gone wrong.

The key is to establish a process with your contractor before construction begins: understand the issue, review the available options and make a thoughtful decision rather than reacting in the moment.



Good planning isn't an added cost—it can help prevent costly decisions from being built in the first place.



Make Decisions Before They Become Emergencies

One of the most stressful sentences during construction is: “**We need an answer today.**”

Many of those moments can be avoided by making design decisions and selections well before the contractor needs them.

Flooring, cabinetry, plumbing fixtures, appliances, lighting, tile, hardware and finishes often interact with other parts of the project. Waiting until installation is approaching can turn an enjoyable decision into a pressured one.

Making decisions early also helps keep the project aligned with your investment and reduces costly changes during construction.

Give Yourself Permission to Escape

Sometimes the smartest remodeling survival strategy is simply... leave.

Go out for dinner. Visit friends. Spend an afternoon somewhere quiet. Plan a weekend away if the construction schedule suggests a particularly disruptive stretch.

Getting away - even for a few hours - can give you a fresh perspective and allow you to return excited about the progress rather than exhausted by the process.

Keep the Finish Line in Sight

During demolition, it can be difficult to imagine that the room stripped to exposed studs, wires and plumbing will become the beautiful space you planned.

This is where CPH's 3D visualizations and design videos become more than design tools. **Keep them close.**

When the construction site looks its worst, revisit the vision of what it will become. The dust is temporary. The design is the destination.

The goal isn't simply to survive the remodel. It's to enjoy the journey to the home you've envisioned.

Thoughtful design doesn't end when construction starts; it extends to helping the homeowner successfully live through the transformation.

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COMPLETELY PERSONAL HOMES

