

TsT Home Improvement Services LLC

Tip of the Month By Tom S. Truesdale

Home Improvement

Home Improvements are generally not as easy as they look on TV. This month, I am providing some dialog and thoughts regarding the potential complexity of home improvements. The possibilities range from simple to complicated when it comes to home improvement projects but many times projects are not fully explained or accurately portrayed on many home improvement shows. Before you tackle a project, here are a few things to consider:

1. Most of the time an extensive behind the scenes labor force and speciality craftsman are not shown during Home Improvement shows. Also, the duration of the project can be greatly misrepresented.

- Labor and Craftsmanship should be considered when evaluating a project. An experienced and qualified craftsman is generally a better choice than a "jack of all trade, master of none".

- Duration of a project changes with the size and complexity, but remember, if sequence of activities is compressed quality generally is sacrificed. A good rule of thumb is to be patient and allow plenty of time for the project to be completed.

2. Consider potential unforeseen conditions.

- Unforeseen conditions can range from simple to complex, insignificant to very costly, here are a few general examples: Wood rot or deterioration; Termite or water damage; Concrete thickness and Undiscovered plumbing and electrical services.

- If your project involves relocating walls or floor replacement, unforeseen conditions can be discovered.

- Generally any project that involves demolition or excavation have the potential to encounter unforeseen conditions that can add time and cost to the project.

3. Planning & Construction:

- Depending on the project, permitting may be required - make sure you check with your local jurisdiction.



- Samples and Materials - take time to look at several different types of materials and review specifications / samples before beginning your project.

Coordination:

- The coordination between materials and trades is essential and a place where many projects breakdown.

- Experience and knowledge is the main way to deliver this part of a project but here are a few examples: Plumbing fixture coordination with countertops; Surface coordination between tile and drywall; Lighting coordination with casework; In-wall coordination between plumbing, electrical and mechanical trades; Color and finishes coordination... the list goes on and on.

4. Planning and bidding:

- Consult with a qualified local construction professional to assist in both planning, bidding and construction.

- Remember the lowest price is not always the best, take time in evaluating your Contractor, relationship and trust are key!

If you have any concerns or questions don't hesitate to contact a local Contractor and Construction Professional for help and guidance but keep in mind in general home improvement projects are not as simple as they appear. Hope this months tips are helpful, best of luck on your next project. *TsT*

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