



The New Jersey Home Remodeling Blog

I Read the News Today; Oh Boy

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So, to coin a phrase, let's talk about "fake news." I'm going to dispel **common contractor's bull.**

Read my few short tips and you will never fall prey to a "conman" again!

Never substitute cheap goods on any job! Do not let any contractor talk you into a cheap (read "inferior") product. Trust me, when it falls apart quickly (and it will), you will have to pay double to tear it out and do it the right way. (And... you will be charged AGAIN to do that.)

Don't cover up a problem "with lipstick" and think it's resolved. Case in point, placing fiberglass inserts over an old bath and shower area and thinking you have a new bathroom. We have all seen the advertisements; promising you great results, if you just "cover up your old tub." I have seen the finished product. Trust me, it doesn't look (or wear) as promised. And always remember, in the end, it is cheaper to do things the right way, the first time,

I beg you, please don't place new granite countertops on old kitchen cabinets and think you're going to convince yourself (or others) that you have a new kitchen. It looks strange, and I can guarantee you that in the end, you won't be happy. More than that, you will be sorry.

Don't think you can paint cinderblock walls and cement floors and call it a finished basement. It is just not possible.

Never let a contractor tell you to order everything and they will install it. Unless you are a contractor yourself (and most homeowners are not), how would you possibly know what to order? (What measurements? What products?). First you are left waiting for your parts to come in. And then you are left waiting for the contractor to come back to begin the job. Many contractors do business this way. I have heard the horror stories. Trust me when I tell you, it is a recipe for disaster. You do not want to learn this the hard way.

Think about it. Why do you hire a contractor to remodel a kitchen, a bathroom, or finish a basement? Because you don't know how to complete the task yourself, or you just don't have the time. You want a quality product. You deserve that! You are going to do this one time. Do It Right!

Get In Touch

Have a question? We'd love to hear from you. [Contact us today](#) to find out how we can help.

Interior Excellence is an interior renovations company that can make your desires into a reality. We are a One Stop Design Shop, and can meet all of your design and renovation needs. You only deal with us. We handles permits, architectural plans, plumbing, electrical, flooring and all design needs. We take you shopping, provide you with 30 plus years of design expertise and pass our designer discounts on to you.

Call Myles Albert at (908) 218-0200 to schedule your free in-home estimate today.

This entry was posted in [Blog Posts](#) on [March 20, 2017](#).

Our Location

5 Killarney St
Bridgewater, NJ 08807

908-218-0200

myles@interiorexcellencellc.com

Express Yourself

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What makes you different than everybody else? Think about it. There are almost 8 billion people on the planet and we're all unique. Remodeling one's home is a fabulous opportunity to show your individual creativity. Interior Excellence brings every homeowner into the world of design.

As a contractor, I love what I do and I share that joy with my customers. I bring them along for a wondrous experience. When has any homeowner described their contractor experience in that way?

Positive, let alone wondrous!

As a contractor, I'm confident in my ability to deliver a showroom quality kitchen, or bathroom remodel, on any budget. And, if extra living space is your desire (rather than move to a larger home) finishing your basement would be heaven.

My customers appreciate my knowledge and expertise as it relates to their design concepts, and I involve them every step of the way. It's fun for everyone to get involved and create anew. There's no detail that goes unnoticed.

A free estimate appointment is scheduled upon request.

A detailed planning is discussed.

An estimate is emailed within 48 hours.

Upon hiring Interior Excellence LLC, a trip is scheduled for customer project shopping.

The project is placed on the calendar, based on materials arrival dates.

A firm estimate of completion times are adhered to, only altered by additional work requested.

Daily clean up occurs

Referrals are appreciated and typically occur long before I even finish.

So why would you put up with the normal contactors modus operandi? I hear this from customers all the time, in regard to other contractors they have called. They don't return calls, they are late, or they don't show at all. Or they leave your job unfinished, to work somewhere else. The one comment I have heard, that puzzles me the most, is the contractor will tell the customer to purchase all the materials and then they will do the work. That's a recipe for disaster. You hire a contractor because you don't know anything about renovating. So, how would the homeowner possibly know what to buy? That only paves the way for huge miscommunications.

Call Myles at Interior Excellence. You can relax! No worries! You will be in the expert hands, of one who cares.

Call now, for your free estimate...And have your dreams realized.

Myles Albert

Interior Excellence LLC

(908)218-0200

This entry was posted in [Blog Posts](#) on [February 13, 2017](#).

AULD LANG SYNE-AKA/NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS

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So, as always, time flies! 2017. It is a new year and in looking back and taking stock of your life... these might be some of the thoughts going through your head. The stock market is doing pretty well. My mate, the kids and I have a happy, healthy and joyous life. Work is fun. Well, some of the time. I have so much hope for the future. So why do I procrastinate? How can things be going so well, yet I let my house get so run down? The bathrooms are the original builders grade; tasteless and poor quality. The kitchen is embarrassing, even for our own family, let alone when we have company over. And, if I am being honest with myself, the needs of my family have grown and we could definitely use more space. The kids are growing and they need a place to play; away from the adults. Please! The time is now! My friends have raved about him, and it is time for me to make that call, to Myles Albert of Interior Excellence. I have been told numerous times that Myles is the top in his field. He provides great service, quality products and fair pricing. Not only that, but he passes his designer discounts on to his customers. I'll start with the bathroom remodels. It will be nice showering in a 21st century bathroom. Then we'll remodel the kitchen. Then our dream come true, we will finish the basement. I can finally make those dreams I have a reality.

Who said I'm a procrastinator?

Call Myles Albert at (908) 218-0200

www.interiorexcellencellc.com

This entry was posted in [Blog Posts](#) on [January 15, 2017](#).

Take Me Home

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Have you toyed with the idea of buying a fixer-upper home; and doing just that; fixing it up (either to keep or for resale). It is a great dream, isn't it? But, there is a lot to consider before taking that big step.

Let's break it down for you:

No matter your reason for the purchase, there are necessary considerations. If you can take an honest look at some important questions, and become knowledgeable with what is at stake; you might just find that a buying a fixer upper is the right move for you!

Whether you are planning to live in the home or sell it, you do need to check out the neighborhood. Check with a realtor. What is the neighborhood like? What are the schools like? What are the comparable homes selling for? (If not immediately, one day you might want to sell the home, and you would like to make a profit).

Have a contractor walk through the house with you, so they can give you an estimate on all that needs to be done to the home, and the costs associated with that. This can give way to discussions on what "must be done" vs. "what can be done".

As you walk through the home together, your contractor will assess what the foundation of the home is like, and what needs to be replaced. What is the flooring like? What are the conditions of the walls (i.e. is there old wall paper or paneling that needs to be removed, and the walls repaired?) Was lead based paint used? Is there asbestos that must be removed? What is the electrical system like? Is there old wiring that needs to be replaced or upgraded? What is the plumbing like? Do you need to move pipelines, or can appliances remain in the same place? How old is the furnace, the air conditioning and heating system?

What is the condition of the roof? Does it need to be replaced?

Your contractor will also advise you as to whether you need architectural plans, and what permits are needed for your project.

And yes, that is before you start the process of “making it beautiful”.

If you pick the right contractor, they will be honest with you, while helping you remain within your budget. You can decide together where you need to save and where you can splurge; as all cabinets, floorings, lighting, appliances, etc. are available for all budgets.

So if a fixer upper is in your “not so distant future”, have fun checking out real estate and dreaming/planning for your future.

Feel free to reach out to Interior Excellence if you think you have located “your future home”. We are happy to come out and walk through a home with you; providing you with our professional expertise and a free estimate. Take this time and make sure you know what you are getting yourself into.

Interior Excellence is an interior renovations company, with thirty plus years experience. We are a One Stop Design Shop, where you deal only with the general contractor, and you leave the rest to us. We meet all your needs, from start to finish. We provide the architectural plans (if needed), the licensed plumbers, electricians, etc. We also offer design expertise, take you shopping and pass on our contractor discounts to the homeowner.

Contact Myles Albert of Interior Excellence at (908) 218-0200 to schedule a free estimate.

This entry was posted in [Blog Posts](#) on [December 30, 2016](#).

Let Me Count The Ways

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Do you look around you and think “my house is in need of a change”. “If only I had the money to remodel”? Making changes in your home is easier than you think. And you can do that on any budget. Most people don’t realize that minor changes can have a big impact. You truly can get a lot of bang for your buck. You just need to start thinking creatively.

Let me help you count the ways:

A fresh coat of paint can brighten any room.

Paint or wallpaper the ceiling

Add new lighting. Search flea markets and antique stores for unique one of a kind lighting.

Add ceiling fans.

Renew your bathrooms, change your accent colors. Buy new towels, trash cans and soap dispensers. Add some art to the walls.

Re-caulk your bathtubs and showers. Change the mirror in your bathroom.

Change the faucets in the bathroom or kitchen.

Update light switches. Are you artistic? Paint your own.

Are your couches or chairs still sturdy but worn? Add new slipcovers.

Add new pillows to your couches. Stretch your budget by adding small and large pillows.

Adding crown molding to your home will update your look while adding style and value.

Add wainscoting to walls and change the look and style of any room.

Don’t discount the garden store. Add house plants to your home.

Take a look at artificial trees; intended for indoor use. They can make quite a statement.

Can’t afford new cabinets in your kitchen? Refinish the ones you have.

Change the handles or knobs on your cabinets.

Change the door handles on your doors.

Do you have old tired furniture? Refinish your favorite pieces. Check out your local hardware store for a variety of finishes (you can spray on a faux finish, a crackle finish).

Do you have a spare closet? Make it into a home office.

Frame those family photos you have lying around. Place them around your home.

Reorganize bookshelves. Showcase not only your books but your collectibles.

Add area rugs to your rooms.

Spray air vents to make them look new again.

Do you like candles? Place them around your house. And light them!

And not just candles, but display beautiful candle sticks.

Add a beautiful vase for a centerpiece on your table.

You can add a runner going up your staircase.

Shop local antique stores and flea markets for unique pieces of art.

Look at local furniture stores for art to display around your home. You can find unusual pieces and many stores offer deals (no money down, interest free for many months), so you can enjoy your art and pay it off slowly.

Pick a few upgrades or refresh your whole house. Once you get started, you may not want to stop. If you put in the time today, you can enjoy the fruits of your labor tomorrow, and for all of the days that follow.

And most importantly, have fun!

If interior renovations are in your future, then reach out to Myles Albert of Interior Excellence.

Myles Albert has been in the home remodeling industry for thirty plus years; creating exquisite bathroom, kitchen and basement renovations to customer specifications. Not only can Myles help to create the home of your dreams, he can offer you design expertise every step of the way.

Interior Excellence is a One Stop Design Shop, where Myles will handle the job from beginning to end. There is no need for you to deal with any other contractors, architects, workmen, etc. Myles takes his customers shopping and passes his designer discounts on to you.

Call Myles now for a free in home estimate.

This entry was posted in [Blog Posts](#) on [October 13, 2016](#).

Workin For a Living

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In my thirty plus years of renovating homes, I can honestly say most of those rooms are designed to accommodate the families need for fun, relaxation and socializing (i.e. kitchen, dining room and basement renovations). However, almost all families also have the need for a workspace in the home.

Whether you are self-employed and require a home office (think: writer, therapist, accountant), whether you are an artist, photographer or an architect (think: design studio) or whether you just need a private space to make phone calls and pay bills, you can create a home office that is comfortable and efficient to conduct your business and meet your needs.

Where do you begin? Start to consider your needs and make a list that you can review with your contractor.

How much space do you need?

Do you want to convert a guest bedroom to an office, a garage that you don't use to house cars, or do you have an underutilized area within your home (maybe in the basement?)

Think about your business; will you have clients visiting you?

How much storage space do you need? (Organization is the key to great productivity). Give some thought to how you want to decorate your home office. Home offices should complement the other rooms in your home. It should also reflect your personality. If your home is traditional in nature, you might want to continue that look in your office; utilizing warm woods and comfortable chairs. If your home is more contemporary, you might want to choose artistic pieces and modern furniture.

Much has been written about the use of colors; what they say about personality and how they can increase (or decrease) productivity in the work place. It has been said that:

Green can bring a sense of balance and harmony, and boost creativity while reducing anxiety.

Yellow can stimulate ideas, energize the office. It is said to show optimism and reflect happiness.

Red is said to increase brain activity, energize you, and increase your heart rate

Orange is said to spark enthusiasm and creative performance

Blue is said to be calming, and promote feelings of trust and promote teamwork

White is said to create a sense of spaciousness and creativity

White coupled with gray, ivory or tan is thought to increase vitality and energy

Purple is said to stimulate the imagination.

As a contractor, I advise that you look through magazines, check out designer show rooms, walk through furniture stores, close your eyes and think about what brings you peace, harmony and comfort. What makes you feel your most productive. Buy a few pints of paint. Try them out on your walls. Sit with it for a few days. This is your office, your special space. Pick whatever colors make you happy!

Other things to think about when you are creating your home office:

Think about lighting. Good lighting is essential for productivity. Do you have a window for natural light, or do you need to have daylight replacement lights?

Think about office furniture. What kind of desk do you need (Does it need to support a computer, a printer and fax machine)? What work items do you need on your desk?

What about the desk chair. You will want to choose one that is ergonomically designed to promote your health and well being.

What storage do you need? Do you need file cabinets, shelves, book cases? Do you want built in cabinets or free standing shelf space?

Choosing a contractor:

In considering a contractor, speak with your friends, ask for referrals, even inquire about reliable contractors at your local Home Depot. Check contractor's references, ask about their reliability and work ethic. You want to get it right the first time.

Reach out to us at Interior Excellence LLC. We are a One Stop Design Shop, and handle all of your needs, from start to finish. You do not need to deal with any other contractors, architects, etc. We will provide you with a free home estimate, and give you a chance to discuss all of your home needs and ideas. Myles Albert will also offer his design expertise from thirty plus years of remodeling homes. As a service to his clients, Myles will also take you shopping and pass on his designer discounts to the home owner.

One thing is for sure; most of us are "Workin for a Living". But, we can have some fun and feel good while we are doing it.

Contact Myles Albert for your free in home estimate at (908) 218-0200

This entry was posted in [Blog Posts](#) on [September 1, 2016](#).

The Times They Are A Changing

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As families grow, a homeowner's needs change. Renovating your basement is a cost effective (and exciting) way to expand your living space. What does your basement look like now? Is it a large, unused storage space where you house items that you never look at again? "Out of sight, out of mind?"

Think about the needs of your family; now and in the future. The possibilities for basement remodels are limitless. Close your eyes and dream...

a home office

a home theatre

a game/billiard room

an art studio

a child's play room

a guest bedroom

an extra kitchen

an extra bathroom

a bar area

a home gym

a workshop

a storage area

a gift wrapping room

A Combination Of All Of The Above

A basement renovation project can be as simple or as elaborate as your needs, your vision and your budget. But where does the homeowner begin?

Remember that this is a large project, with a lot of variables, and it is crucial to hire an experienced professional company to handle all of your renovation needs. Particularly with basement renovations there is much to consider including the concerns of water, moisture, mold and mildew. Your contractor needs to utilize materials that will stand up to water. Your contractor also needs to know building codes and permit regulations. Adding an extra bathroom or extra space will call for additional requirements. When you do find a contractor that can meet all of your needs, make sure to reach out to their references. The stories from other home owners will tell you all that you need to know.

Myles Albert of Interior Excellence has over thirty years of experience as a home remodeling company, providing basement, kitchen and bathroom renovation projects throughout the New Jersey area. Interior Excellence is a One Stop Design Shop, where all of your needs are met, from beginning to end. (You do not need to deal with any other work men or contractors). Myles provides free home estimates, if necessary he will provide architectural plans, and he provides design ideas (simple or complex, based on your own ideas or need for guidance). Myles takes clients shopping for all of your renovation needs (i.e. flooring, cabinetry, lighting, appliances, etc). Understanding that a basement remodel is a very large undertaking, Myles will work with you to keep your job on budget (small or grand scale, your choice). He will deliver a showroom worthy project and prides himself on leaving behind only happy customers.

Call all of his customers, ask all of your questions and then see for yourself.

The time for change is now! Call Myles to get on his schedule for your in-home free estimate.

Myles Albert

Interior Excellence

(908) 218-0200

This entry was posted in [Blog Posts](#) on [July 19, 2016](#).

“All I Have To Do Is Dream”

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Have years of neglect taken a toll on the bathrooms in your home? Are your bathrooms outdated and in need of a makeover? Are you dreaming of change, but don't know where to start?

Do you have a small powder room, a child's bathroom or a guest bathroom that needs an update?

For small cramped bathrooms, Myles will work with you to creatively maximize the existing space, and open it up with lighting and design. If there is additional room, and you desire it, you can discuss the possibility of opening up and enlarging the space.

Do you dream of turning your master bathroom into a spa like setting or an oasis for relaxation? Do you long for a large walk in shower, a free standing tub or a whirlpool tub? Do you want his and her vanities? Do you prefer marble or stone? Have you thought about lighting and bathroom fixtures? Are you in need of storage space within your bathroom?

Let your imagination go wild. Reach out to Myles Albert of Interior Excellence. He is a One Stop Design Shop, and will meet all of your needs from beginning to end. If you can dream it, he can create it!

For those who need help with design, Myles will provide you with design ideas from his thirty years of experience creating beautiful living spaces. He will also take you shopping for your vanities, flooring, and bathroom appliances. He leaves no stone unturned!!

Call Myles to schedule a free in-home estimate. No matter your budget, you can work together to create a showplace that you will be glad to come home to.

All you have to do is dream!!

This entry was posted in [Blog Posts](#), [Uncategorized](#) on [July 2, 2016](#).

Be Our Guest

[Leave a reply](#)

The one thing most homeowners will agree upon is that the kitchen is the heart of the home! Whether you are throwing an elaborate dinner party or having friends over for a casual visit; everyone gathers in the kitchen. And, if you are a home chef or a food enthusiast, the kitchen is your special haven.

Given today's economy, many people are choosing to remain in their current homes, and make the necessary changes and upgrades (more cost efficient than moving). And, while staying put, kitchen renovations are the most popular home improvement! Close your eyes and imagine your dream kitchen. Are you living in it? If not, it is time to renovate.

But where do you begin? Creating a new, beautiful kitchen takes a great deal of consideration and planning.

First, give thought to your sense of style. When you close your eyes, think about what brings you the most pleasure. Do you like traditional kitchens, where the focus is formal with a focus on classic materials such as fine wood, old world craftsmanship and elegance? Do you prefer a contemporary kitchen that is devoid of clutter with walls and cabinets that are often bare, with countertops that are

often slabs of stone, and stainless steel appliances. Or do you lean toward American Country, with your taste being more casual and informal; with a rustic warm feel to it. Perhaps you prefer Art Deco, French Country or Southwestern styles? Look at magazines, explore kitchen showrooms, and think about what will bring you the most joy!

Now, think about your existing space and the organization of your kitchen. Are you happy with the layout of your current kitchen? Or, do you want to change and recreate your kitchen space? Do you have a small family or a large family? How much entertaining do you do? Is your space adequate or do you need to enlarge the kitchen? Let your imagination go wild. Have fun!

When it comes to the renovation, it is best to leave it to professionals who have extensive experience with kitchen remodeling. Call their references! Are they reliable and professional? Are their prior customers happy with the outcome?

Myles Albert of Interior Excellence has over thirty years of experience in the remodeling industry. Interior Excellence is a One Stop Design Shop that specializes in kitchen, bedroom and basement renovations. You do not have to deal with any other contractors, architects, electricians or servicemen. Myles will oversee the whole project, from beginning to end.

Myles will provide a free estimate. He takes all of his customers shopping for their appliances, flooring, cabinetry, backsplashes, countertops, lighting, etc. He also passes along his designer discounts. Myles will create the kitchen of your dreams, and provide design advice and ideas (from his thirty plus years of experience).

After you dream it, Myles will create it! Then, go ahead and throw that party! You will have fun and your guests will be impressed!!

Call Myles Albert today for your free estimate.

Myles Albert
Interior Excellence
(908) 218-0200

This entry was posted in [Blog Posts](#) on [June 15, 2016](#).

“Summertime and the Livin is Easy”

[Leave a reply](#)

Finally.... Summer is here!

As East Coast residents, we wait all year to enjoy the summer months. At Interior Excellence, we spend most of the year renovating the interior of our customer's homes. We pride ourselves on working with our customers to create fabulous kitchens, remodeling beautiful state of the art bathrooms and creating beautiful and functional basements to suit every family members needs (from media rooms to home gyms).

But yes, even at Interior Excellence, we ask ourselves “how do we help our customers maximize the outside of their home?” We pride ourselves on helping our customers extend the beauty of their home from the inside out.

Not everyone has the desire (or the money) to add a pool to their backyard. But an alternative to a pool is a Fire pit, which can be created, regardless of the size of your yard.

The benefits of a fire pit are countless. In today's fast paced technological society, where individual family members spend their “quality time” alone, a fire pit is guaranteed to bring you together. There is nothing like bonding over a fire. It can be enjoyed by all family members, young or old. You can extend your entertaining to outside where you can grill food or gather round and toast marshmallows. The firepit can be used all year long. You can build a fire to keep you warm on a chilly evening. And, this attractive feature will add value to your home when you go to sell it.

Give Myles Albert of Interior Excellence a call for a free estimate, where we can discuss creating

beautiful, customized fire pits that can be enjoyed all year long.

Summer is here and the time is now!!

This entry was posted in [Blog Posts](#), [Uncategorized](#) on [April 18, 2016](#).

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Get In Touch

Want to find out more information? Contact us to find out how we can help.

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Us



The New Jersey Home Remodeling Blog

I Read the News Today; Oh Boy

[Leave a reply](#)

So, to coin a phrase, let's talk about "fake news." I'm going to dispel **common contractor's bull.**

Read my few short tips and you will never fall prey to a "conman" again!

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Don't cover up a problem "with lipstick" and think it's resolved. Case in point, placing fiberglass inserts over an old bath and shower area and thinking you have a new bathroom. We have all seen the advertisements; promising you great results, if you just "cover up your old tub." I have seen the finished product. Trust me, it doesn't look (or wear) as promised. And always remember, in the end, it is cheaper to do things the right way, the first time,

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Think about it. Why do you hire a contractor to remodel a kitchen, a bathroom, or finish a basement? Because you don't know how to complete the task yourself, or you just don't have the time. You want a quality product. You deserve that! You are going to do this one time. Do It Right!

Get In Touch

Have a question? We'd love to hear from you. [Contact us today](#) to find out how we can help.

kitchen, bathroom, or basement makes you feel good for a lifetime.

This entry was posted in [Blog Posts](#), [Uncategorized](#) on [April 8, 2016](#).

Bathroom Remodeling

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This entry was posted in [Blog Posts](#), [Uncategorized](#) on [March 7, 2016](#).

Rain, I Don't mind...

[Leave a reply](#)

So you've decided to remodel your bathroom. Here are some basic questions, you should ask

Our Location

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yourself. What kind of pressure would I feel comfortable with as a shower head? A rain (larger head, usually overhead), gives you the feeling of being rained upon. An adjustable, full pressure spray is what most people are used to. Some people want a hand held unit, which can be removed for easier body washing or cleaning the shower. Also take into account that they make units with a special material to prevent hard water build up.

Every aspect of your bathroom remodeling project will have many moving parts. No need to concern yourself. Myles Albert of Interior Excellence, will walk you through every angle and give you the pro's and con's, so you can make an informed design decision.

This entry was posted in [Blog Posts](#), [Uncategorized](#) on [February 4, 2016](#).

"It Was The Best Of Times, It Was The Worst Of Times"

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In these difficult times one thing remains constant. Owning a home requires ongoing maintenance. Despite the rhetoric of foreclosures and financial difficulties in the world, most people are well managed and in stable condition (financially).

If a home is allowed to enter a state of disrepair, it can lead to many snowballing problems. An example may be a broken down bathroom which can cause water leakage to lower floors and even cause fires when coming in contact with electrical wires.

Our homes are our haven, our safe place. Our families well being depends on that environment being well kept. A slow economy is never a time to neglect our family. Likewise, the home should never be neglected, especially out of political fear mongering propaganda. On the contrary, now is the time to get the best deal ever on work needed in your home.

Myles Albert (owner of Interior Excellence in Bridgewater New Jersey), understands his industry more than most. For thirty two years, he has offered his customers a one stop interior renovation shop. No need for you to juggle a multitude of unreliable workman and risk disaster. Myles will be in and out of your project quickly (he only does one job at a time). You'll save on design, because he includes free design consulting. You'll save on materials, because he passes his suppliers discounts on to his customers. And most of all you'll have a showroom quality product, at almost half the price (of comparable licensed and insured contractors). Because Myles understands these are stressful times, but your home needs to be maintained.

A pleasant environment is the best way to keep a good outlook on life. If you feel good about your home, your family will thrive.

This entry was posted in [Blog Posts](#), [Uncategorized](#) on [January 7, 2016](#).

TO SEE WHAT CONDITION MY CONDITION WAS IN...

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So, here are some easy ways to save on home heating costs this winter:

Make sure to caulk around windows (inside and outside). Weather strips around doors and sliders also prevent cold air from entering the home.

Make sure the chimney is clean and the flu is closed when not in use.

Keep window shades, curtains and blinds open in the day, so the sun warms the home.

Get a programmable thermostat and turn down the heat when you're not home.

With all the savings you can plan a bathroom, kitchen, or basement remodel with Interior Excellence.

So call Myles Albert now and get your free estimate.

This entry was posted in [Blog Posts](#), [Uncategorized](#) on [November 26, 2015](#).

TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS...

[Leave a reply](#)

Who is the right contractor for your project? If you are only searching for the lowest price, you are guaranteed to get burned. It's like a horse with blinders (narrow sighted). Home renovations tend to be costly. Because of the considerable investment, these tips will help you locate a contractor that you can trust and feel comfortable with.

Work only with licensed contractors. They have been verified by the state already. Unlicensed contractors can give a lower price, but buyers beware. I've heard many stories of contractors taking large deposits and never coming back.

Get written estimates and service agreements and make sure everything is discussed and all your questions are answered. If there are unforeseen conditions or if additional work is requested, make sure to ask about the extra costs involved.

Get references and reach out to past clients. Make sure that the contractor provides quality workmanship at a fair price. Also, make sure that you feel comfortable with the demeanor of the contractor. It also makes a huge difference when you have pleasant people working in your home. Keep accurate records and pay by check. Make sure your contractor is organized. Also, be clear about daily clean-ups.

Make sure your contractor finishes your job before he starts another one. Many contractors juggle several jobs at one time, which could greatly impact your project, and prevent it from being completed in a timely fashion.

So, the best tip of all is to call Myles Albert of Interior Excellence. I am more than happy to come out and give you a free estimate for a bathroom, kitchen or basement remodel. I will help you with the design, I will take you shopping, and I will pass all of my discounts on to you, so you will save on the back end. I will handle every aspect of your job from start to finish and leave you with a showroom quality product that you can be

This entry was posted in [Blog Posts](#), [Uncategorized](#) on [November 18, 2015](#).

Time is on my side...

[Leave a reply](#)

So, what's the best time to get that kitchen remodel? And how about that bathroom I hate so much?

The holiday season is a great time to renovate. Contractors are always a little bit slow around the holidays and will give you better pricing, to keep their men working. And starting the plans now to get on next year's schedule is a great idea. Typically, a basement finishing or kitchen remodel requires approximately six weeks of planning. The designing, shopping, plans and permits take time. By scheduling the work now with Interior Excellence you can be good to start come January 2016.

So give yourself the gift of a lifetime this holiday season and call Myles Albert at Interior Excellence. Remember time is on your side.

This entry was posted in [Blog Posts](#), [Uncategorized](#) on [November 11, 2015](#).

What a Drag It Is Getting Old...

[Leave a reply](#)

So who are you? Do you smoke, drink, and overeat? Our life styles are killing us. Or do you eat

healthy, exercise and get plenty of sleep? Everything in moderation. I for one will live past 100 and have my wits about me. It's not because I'm a prime example of healthy choices. However, good genetics and moderation rule my life.

The same analogy can be made of your home. When was the last time you renovated a bathroom, kitchen, or finished your basement? Was it twenty years ago? Is everything falling down around you? Are you embarrassed to bring company home? Then it's time to renovate! Let Myles Albert of Interior Excellence turn your kitchen into a showroom product that you can be proud of. Or, take a shower in your newly renovated bathroom and start the day right. Has your family and your home gotten too small? Don't move. Turn that empty space in your basement into an extra living area, with a basement finishing project. Interior Excellence will handle everything, from start to finish. It's easy! Just call and get on our schedule. Let's get your home and life healthy again.

This entry was posted in [Blog Posts](#) on [November 2, 2015](#).

Time is on my side....

[Leave a reply](#)

When you want to renovate a kitchen, or a bathroom, make sure you have an exact time line from your contractor. Many contractors handle more than one job at a time and will leave you hanging to collect a new check. Also be careful not to allow any demolition work until all the materials have arrived. The bottom line is that Interior Excellence will always have your back when it comes to your renovation project. Not starting your project until all the materials have arrived and working one job at a time allows for the quickest down time for your bathroom and/or kitchen remodel. Remember, these areas are vital to your comfort and you want them back as soon as possible.

So, how much time should you allow for each project? Depending on the size of the bathroom, allow one to two weeks. For a kitchen (with the countertop template) you need three weeks maximum, from start to finish. Please be kind to yourselves. Hire a contractor that not only will give you a brilliant design, but will complete it in a timely fashion.

This entry was posted in [Blog Posts](#), [Uncategorized](#) on [October 25, 2015](#).

IT'S ALMOST LIKE BEING IN LOVE...

[Leave a reply](#)

Few things in life feel better than that hot, morning shower. It's right up there, with the morning cup of coffee. If you're in the market for a new bathroom renovation, there are a few things you should consider.

I'm environmentally conscious, but the new eco friendly shower heads, take away a full pressure shower. They reduce the GPM (gallons per minute) and quite frankly, that upsets me.

The height and width of the toilet is another feature to consider.

The finish on the fixtures (chrome, nickel, bronze), which bathroom suits, you best.

Do you want a niche or corner shelves in your shower for shampoos?

Would you like a seat to shave your legs?

What color scheme to use?

The great news is, Myles Albert of Interior Excellence will help you do it all. There's nothing you the homeowner has to do, but enjoy the ride.

This entry was posted in [Blog Posts](#), [Uncategorized](#) on [October 15, 2015](#).

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The New Jersey Home Remodeling Blog

What I like about you...

[Leave a reply](#)

There's nothing better for the mind, body, spirit connection than a healthy environment. We truly are influenced and transformed, if our home feels good to us. Great parents equal great kids, right? So why do people live with the 15 year old builders grade decaying kitchens and bathrooms? It clutters your hearts. I've spent 32 years as the anti-contractor. In a quite pleasurable way my customers experience a life transformation, with my renovation services.

My customers are discerning people, who realize the value in someone who handles the whole project. There's nothing the customer has to do except enjoy the process. And of course tell all their friends. The process starts with the first call, to an immediate estimate, to design ideas, to personal shopping (my discounts are passed on to you) and finally when all products have arrived, a quick and flawless kitchen, bathroom, or basement finishing, is produced.

I pride myself in a showroom quality product on a budget.

This entry was posted in [Blog Posts](#) on [October 9, 2015](#).

Get In Touch

Have a question? We'd love to hear from you. [Contact us today](#) to find out how we can help.

Who are you?

[Leave a reply](#)

Who is Myles Albert, of Interior Excellence?

I'm a loving and devout husband and father (of three sons).

There is nothing more important than family.

I love life. I love the journey.

What I do for a living is fun, I create anew and make people happy.

I leave miles of smiles behind.

I've told my sons since knee high, some simple rules.
Every day try to make yourself a better person, than you were the day before
Put good into the world.
Nothing happens without an education.
The key to life is effective human communication.
The journey is within.
So I leave you with a question. Are you someone who settles for the same old, same old?
Or do you want the best?
This entry was posted in [Blog Posts](#) on [October 9, 2015](#).



Our Location

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You Can't Always Get What You Want....

Leave a reply

I've been a licensed contractor, for over 32 years. I specialize in intricate, detailed, superior design projects (kitchen, bathroom and basement remodels). I've never got my competition.
They'll tell the customer, to get all the materials and they'll install them.
They'll pick up any day worker on a corner and leave that unknown factor on their job.
They won't return calls.
They won't keep appointments.
They'll leave your job to work another job.
They will do shotie work and steal monies.
How can the lay person commit to be a co-contractor and get the materials? That leaves a large gap for job errors. A stranger on in their home leaves an even larger safety gap.
People must think the contractor selection process through. Always check out competence and references. If a contractor asks you to by the materials, run quickly. It's a hard enough process, without inviting trouble. And finally it can't always be about money. The lowest bid is easy bait to catch the unsuspecting fish.
Hire a contractor that you can trust into your home. Make sure his men are his regular Team.
You can always get what you want, with Myles Albert of Interior Excellence and more.
If I'm in your home doing a kitchen, bathroom, or basement remodel, I'd be happy to do the honey do handyman list (because I'm already there).
Our mission statement is 32 years creating miles of smiles.
This entry was posted in [Blog Posts](#) on [October 7, 2015](#).



Should Bathroom Fans Be Vented Outside?

[Leave a reply](#)

It's a common question among new and experienced homeowners alike: is it *really* necessary to vent bathroom steam outside? In short, the answer is yes. Here at Interior Excellence, we have seen numerous problems arise due to poor [bathroom ventilation](#). In the interest of saving yourself time, money, and headaches down the road, it is critically important to set up a proper ventilation system in your bathroom.

[Continue reading](#) →

This entry was posted in [Blog Posts](#) on [July 27, 2015](#).



How to Prevent Your Basement from Flooding

[Leave a reply](#)

If you've never experienced a basement flood, consider yourself lucky. If you have, you know how expensive, destructive, frustrating, and downright disgusting the experience can be. In either case,

the bottom line is that basement floods are something every homeowner wants to avoid – but how? What steps can you take to reduce the risks? Our basement remodeling team has the answers.

[Continue reading →](#)

This entry was posted in [Blog Posts](#), [Uncategorized](#) on [June 12, 2015](#).



[Is an Island Right for Your Kitchen?](#)

[Leave a reply](#)

Traditional kitchen counters line the walls and are firmly fixed in place. While this arrangement has long been considered the standard configuration in homes of all types and styles, the mobile, rolling “island” counter has become more popular among homeowners during recent years. But how do you know if you have enough room? What other cost and design factors should homeowners keep in mind when considering [kitchen remodeling](#) or getting new furniture?

[Continue reading →](#)

This entry was posted in [Blog Posts](#), [Uncategorized](#) on [May 11, 2015](#).



Should Your Bathroom Match Your Kitchen?

[Leave a reply](#)

The bathroom and kitchen are two of the most important rooms in any home. Whether you're trying to boost its property value prior to putting your house on the market, looking into making major kitchen or [bathroom renovations](#), or you simply want to create the perfect personalized space to come home to after a long day at work, close attention to these rooms is a must. But should you mix or match the style you choose for these two rooms? Is one "better" than the other when it comes to increasing the value of your home? Which pros and cons should homeowners consider when making this decision?

[Continue reading →](#)

This entry was posted in [Blog Posts](#), [Uncategorized](#) on [April 30, 2015](#).

Can You Get a Tax Break for Going Green in New Jersey?

[Leave a reply](#)

We've blogged about plenty of different [ways to save money by going green](#) in the past, but there's still one trick we haven't covered in depth: your taxes. Did you know that if you live in New Jersey, you could qualify for tax breaks if your property harnesses renewable energy? What sort of tax breaks are available for green building? And what sorts of rules and regulations should you know about?

[Continue reading →](#)

This entry was posted in [Blog Posts](#), [Uncategorized](#) on [September 9, 2014](#).

The Top 3 Most Profitable Home Renovation Projects

[Leave a reply](#)

Homeowners have different reasons for wanting to embark on renovation projects. Some people want to boost the value of their home prior to trying to sell, while others are simply in the mood for a change of scenery. But whether you're staying put or moving out, one factor stays the same: you don't want to waste your money. Fortunately, you don't have to. Here are the top 3 most [profitable home renovation](#) projects you can tackle this year.

[Continue reading](#) →

This entry was posted in [Blog Posts](#) on [August 29, 2014](#).

3 Easy Tips for Reducing Your Home's Energy Bill

[Leave a reply](#)

No one ever wants to pay more than they have to. So what if you could make your home more [environmentally friendly](#) and slash your monthly utility costs at once? You might be surprised at just how easy it is to make a few quick fixes that can have a dramatic positive impact on your wallet over time. Here are 3 simple pointers that can help you reduce your home's energy costs whether you live alone, with a large family, or somewhere in between. With fall and winter's huge heating bills just around the corner, it's the perfect time of year to start prepping for savings.

[Continue reading](#) →

This entry was posted in [Blog Posts](#), [Uncategorized](#) on [August 21, 2014](#).

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The New Jersey Home Remodeling Blog

Are You Getting Ready to Sell Your House?

[Leave a reply](#)

Selling a house can be a lot of work. You have to move your furniture, get an agent, and do a whole lot of tedious renovations that you can only hope will make your house more appealing. Knowing what needs to be fixed or changed and what doesn't can be a confusing process and it can wind up costing you a fortune but we have the perfect [cheap and easy](#) home improvement guide for you.

[Continue reading](#) →

This entry was posted in [Blog Posts](#), [Uncategorized](#) on [August 14, 2014](#).

Get In Touch

Have a question? We'd love to hear from you. [Contact us today](#) to find out how we can help.

You're Wasting Water! Conserving Water in Your Bathrooms

[Leave a reply](#)

The following infographic shows how much water is used in a typical household and how you can cut down on your usage while saving money. The average American is said to use up to 400 gallons of water a day with more than half of that usage coming directly from the bathroom. Just in case you can't wrap your head around how much 400 gallons of water is think of it this way: 400 gallons of water is equivalent to 13 wonderful bubble baths. [Continue reading](#) →

This entry was posted in [Blog Posts](#), [Uncategorized](#) on [July 10, 2014](#).

Paint or Stain?

[Leave a reply](#)

Paint or stain? That is the question everyone is asking and how do you know which one to choose? Well first, you want to take into account the type of project that you are embarking on and what kind of style you want. Whether it ranges from your cabinets for your [kitchen remodeling](#) project to that bookshelf sitting in your newly remodeled [basement](#); you want to use whichever product best works for you and your home. Stain and paint are similar when it comes to some of their ingredients but they function differently when applied to a surface. Both stain and paint can protect your surfaces but in different ways.

[Continue reading](#) →

This entry was posted in [Blog Posts](#), [Uncategorized](#) on [June 24, 2014](#).

Bathroom Trends for 2014

[Leave a reply](#)

It's time to start your [bathroom remodeling](#) project, so what new [trends](#) are you going to add to your bathroom? Whether you want a curb-less shower instead of a freestanding tub or you want to use bold colors versus using earth tones, you have trends upon trends to consider. But before you start going trend crazy to help build that bathroom you have always dreamed of, you should see what suits you the best. Finding what makes your bathroom look good is only half the battle: you also have look to see what functions well within your bathroom. [Continue reading](#) →

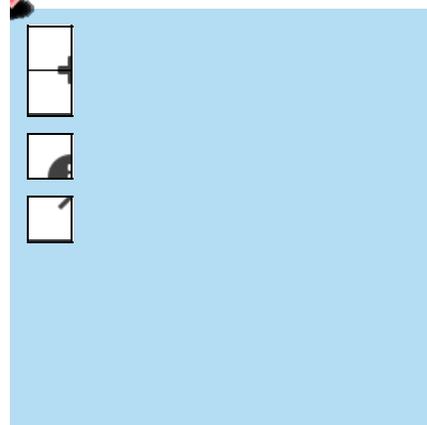
This entry was posted in [Blog Posts](#), [Uncategorized](#) on [June 17, 2014](#).

July 4th Fireworks Shows in New Jersey – 2014

[Leave a reply](#)

In less than a month the streets will be filled with American pride as we celebrate America's Independence Day. The holiday, most commonly referred to as the 4th of July, began in 1776 after America's original 13 colonies, including New Jersey, gained their independence from the United Kingdom.

Click on a marker to find fireworks in your area or continue to the complete list below!



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According to the United States Census Bureau, when America first gained its independence there were 2.5 million Americans, but as of last year that number has drastically increased to 316.2 million people. This means that as the years have gone by the celebrations have become bigger! To help your family find the best Independence Day celebration we have put together a list of firework shows across New Jersey. Gather your picnic baskets and get all decked out in your red, white and blue to celebrate this 4th of July with a bang!

[Continue reading →](#)

This entry was posted in [Blog Posts](#), [Uncategorized](#) on [June 12, 2014](#).

3 Easy Ways to Turn Old Items Into New Decorations

[Leave a reply](#)

Today more than ever, Americans are [going green](#). For homeowners who want to help the reduce their negative impact on the environment by recycling — or who simply want to save a few bucks on shopping — there are plenty of fun, cheap, and easy ways to give your home an eco-friendly makeover. Here are three easy ways to recycle old and unwanted household items into new decorations for every part of the house.

[Continue reading →](#)

This entry was posted in [Blog Posts](#), [Uncategorized](#) on [June 10, 2014](#).

Are These 3 Hidden Dangers in Your Home?

[Leave a reply](#)

“Could your shampoo be making you sick?” We all know the formula: news stations need viewers to tune in, so they terrify viewers at home into thinking they could fall ill (or even die) if they don’t pick up that remote. Unfortunately, America’s journalistic obsession with “scare reports” sometimes makes us indifferent to very *real* hazards, such as those that frequently crop up in the home. Fortunately, a little bit of knowledge combined with a few basic preventative measures can go a long way toward [keeping you and your family safe](#).

[Continue reading →](#)

This entry was posted in [Blog Posts](#), [Uncategorized](#) on [May 27, 2014](#).

A Guide to Pest Insects That Can Damage Your Home: Part 2

[Leave a reply](#)

In our last blog post, we talked about two of the worst pest insects for the wood in your home.

Termites and carpenter ants may love to wreak havoc on floorboards, window frames, and wooden furniture, but other bugs prefer to target carpets, clothes, and fabrics. In this entry, we’ll continue our [guide to pest insects](#) that can damage your home (and its contents) with a focus on carpet beetles, moths, and silverfish.

[Continue reading →](#)

This entry was posted in [Blog Posts](#), [Uncategorized](#) on [May 13, 2014](#).

A Guide to Pest Insects That Can Damage Your Home: Part 1

[Leave a reply](#)

When the miserable chill of winter finally subsides, people start to swap out their wardrobes, turn on their sprinklers, and fire up their grills. But while spring and [summer weather](#) brings fluffy clouds and balmy breezes, it also brings something less pleasant: a wave of irritating pest insects. Some insects are happy to live their lives remote from human contact, but others prefer to take up residence in the nooks and crannies of our homes. Don't let unwanted roommates drive you crazy: use our guide to pest insects that can damage your home. In the first installment, we'll look at wood damage.

[Continue reading](#) →

This entry was posted in [Blog Posts](#), [Uncategorized](#) on [May 8, 2014](#).

How to Keep Your Home Improvement Project Safe

[Leave a reply](#)

Home improvement can be very dangerous. At the risk of sounding alarmist, there are potential hazards waiting around every corner, and you need to take careful steps to protect yourself. In this blog post, we'll cover how to make home improvement safe.

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This entry was posted in [Blog Posts](#), [Uncategorized](#) on [April 29, 2014](#).

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The New Jersey Home Remodeling Blog

Is it Time to Remodel?

[Leave a reply](#)

A good remodeling job has the power to turn an uninspiring house into a *home* the owner can truly love. But how do you know when it's time to remodel? Are there external factors to consider? In this [blog post](#), we'll try to help you answer the question you've been asking yourself: is it time to remodel?

[Continue reading](#) →

This entry was posted in [Blog Posts](#) on [April 10, 2014](#).

Get In Touch

Have a question? We'd love to hear from you. [Contact us today](#) to find out how we can help.

Choosing the Right Type of Wood for Your Project

[Leave a reply](#)

In the past, we've written [blog posts](#) about choosing the right edges for your countertops. Remodeling is all about choice and personal taste, so in this entry, our New Jersey remodeling team will take a look at some of the characteristics, purposes, and appearances of different types of wood. Choosing the right type of wood for your project can make a world of difference to the finished product.

[Continue reading](#) →

This entry was posted in [Blog Posts](#) on [March 27, 2014](#).

How Colors Affect Your Mood

[Leave a reply](#)

The plumbing, wiring, and structural support that go into your home are critical to safety and comfort.

But let's face facts: it's what we see that affects our mood while we're at home, not invisible pipes beneath the floorboards. Depending on the way you decide to paint your house, you could be altering your mood without even realizing it. On the other hand, you can deliberately evoke certain feelings based on the colors you use — artists have been doing it for centuries. In this blog entry, our [New Jersey interior designers](#) take a look at how colors affect your mood.

[Continue reading →](#)

This entry was posted in [Blog Posts](#) on [March 19, 2014](#).

How to Avoid a Remodeling Disaster

[Leave a reply](#)

Remodeling is a big step for any homeowner. But sometimes, errors and mistakes add up to make a big step in the wrong direction. To help you avoid some basic (and catastrophic) home improvement pitfalls, in this entry, our [New Jersey contractors](#) have compiled a brief guide on how to avoid a remodeling disaster.

[Continue reading →](#)

This entry was posted in [Blog Posts](#) on [February 25, 2014](#).

Census Data Shows Remodeling on the Rise for 2014

[Leave a reply](#)

It's virtually impossible to discuss or even refer to America's long-suffering economy without touching on the housing market. A home is one of the biggest purchases anyone can make, and since the mortgage crisis gripped the nation in 2007, the real estate market has been an ongoing source of consumer anxiety, media controversy, and financial and political debate. But new statistics show that a ray of light might be breaking through the clouds. As 2014 gets into swing, Americans across the nation are fighting the high cost of home-buying by spending more than ever on home remodeling as an alternative. The remodeling industry surged in 2013, and shows no signs of slowing this year either.

[Continue reading →](#)

This entry was posted in [Blog Posts](#), [Uncategorized](#) on [February 11, 2014](#).

Essential Tools for Home Improvement

[Leave a reply](#)

Needless to say, you can't tackle a [home improvement project](#) with your bare hands. To complete even the most minor project or repair, you need to equip yourself with the appropriate tools and accessories for the job. In this entry, we've assembled some of our favorite essential tools for home improvement.

[Continue reading →](#)

This entry was posted in [Blog Posts](#), [Uncategorized](#) on [January 30, 2014](#).

Remodeling Trends for 2014

[Leave a reply](#)

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It's another January, another New Year, and another breath of fresh air into all of our ambitions, goals, and resolutions. While no one short of a clairvoyant could definitively say what 2014 will bring, speculation about the hottest remodeling trends for 2014 is already making design forecasts for what to keep an eye on this year.

[Continue reading →](#)

This entry was posted in [Blog Posts](#), [Uncategorized](#) on [January 16, 2014](#).

Holiday Decorating Tips

[Leave a reply](#)

Ah, the holidays. It's that magical time of year when malls are overrun by stampedes of stressed-out parents, mall Santas count down the seconds until their break time, and in-laws take it upon themselves to dish out political opinions and unwanted financial advice. But all joking aside, the holiday season really does evince a certain special feeling of warmth, family, and togetherness. In honor of the holidays (and in preparation for a flurry of house guests), many people choose to change up their home's decor, whether indoors, outdoors, or both. Here are some of our favorite holiday decorating tips.

[Continue reading →](#)

This entry was posted in [Blog Posts](#) on [December 17, 2013](#).

Kroger Spends Millions on Remodeling

[Leave a reply](#)

Some [remodeling jobs](#) are big. Other remodeling jobs are small. Then, there are those special remodeling jobs that cost millions and millions of dollars. Grocery heavyweight Kroger has recently tipped the design scales (and the financial scales) following an eye-popping overhaul scheduled to continue into 2014.

[Continue reading →](#)

This entry was posted in [Blog Posts](#), [Uncategorized](#) on [December 12, 2013](#).

Kitchen Remodel Leads to Cops and Court

[Leave a reply](#)

We've probably all heard the phrase "this kitchen is a nightmare" uttered jokingly — or at least, half-jokingly. Maybe there were little ceramic gnomes lining the windowsills. Maybe the wallpaper was a peeling, yellowing, cringe-inducing holdover from the very darkest aesthetic corners of the 1970s. Still, whatever the case may be, no kitchen has ever really been so horrendously treated that it's actually led to *criminal charges*... Right?

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This entry was posted in [Blog Posts](#), [Uncategorized](#) on [December 5, 2013](#).

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The New Jersey Home Remodeling Blog

Quick Fixes VS. Major Projects

[Leave a reply](#)

Successful [home improvement](#) is about three things:

It's about enhancing your home.

It's about learning and having fun.

It's about putting in the right amount of work.

Numbers one and two on the list are pretty straightforward, but what about number three? Wouldn't it *always* be best to work as hard as possible? Well, not necessarily. Home improvement comes with enough inherent challenges — you don't want to make your work any more difficult than it needs to be. On the flip-side, you also don't want to slack when you truly need to put your back into it. So, in the interest of preserving your cash, your sanity, and your curb appeal, here's a brief cheat-sheet to quick fixes versus major projects.

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This entry was posted in [Blog Posts](#), [Uncategorized](#) on [November 21, 2013](#).

Get In Touch

Have a question? We'd love to hear from you. [Contact us today](#) to find out how we can help.

Make the Most Out of Your Floor Mats

[Leave a reply](#)

Floor mats have been an integral part of [homes](#) and commercial buildings for decades. They are not only functional, but add style, flair, and personality. Essentially, a floor mat is little more than a flat, thick pad which is generally used to cover part or all of a floor. But despite their simplicity, they are still important, because they protect the floor beneath from outside dust and other impurities, and in turn help to keep entire rooms clean.

[Continue reading →](#)

This entry was posted in [Blog Posts](#), [Uncategorized](#) on [November 7, 2013](#).

7 Quick and Effective Home Decorating Ideas

[Leave a reply](#)

People often feel anxious when they become aware of a sudden visit of friends or relatives to their home. None of us can deny the fact that we want our house to look its very best. Therefore, we continuously strive for various decorating ideas in order to make our house look more beautiful than ever.

[Continue reading](#) →

This entry was posted in [Blog Posts](#) on [November 7, 2013](#).

Tips for Organizing a Kitchen

[Leave a reply](#)

Some would say that the [kitchen](#) is the heart of the home. Whether you use it for dinnertime seating, cooking up a storm, or simply unifying the surrounding rooms, your kitchen needs to be functional, accessible, and of course, appealing to your visual taste (no pun intended). Here are some tips for organizing a kitchen so that you can get the most out of your space.

[Continue reading](#) →

This entry was posted in [Blog Posts](#), [Uncategorized](#) on [November 5, 2013](#).

Choosing the Right Edges for Your Countertops: Part 1

[Leave a reply](#)

Choosing the right countertop edge may seem like an afterthought compared to selecting the kind of material you want to use or picking out the specific color or pattern you like best. However, the edge you choose is important for some significant practical and aesthetic reasons. Therefore, it's well worth considering every aspect of your new countertops, including the edges.

[Continue reading](#) →

This entry was posted in [Blog Posts](#), [Uncategorized](#) on [October 29, 2013](#).

5 Common Misconceptions About Going Green

[Leave a reply](#)

The drive toward "going green" has been going strong for the past decade or so. It's virtually impossible to make it through a session of browsing the internet, channel-surfing, or visiting a brick-and-mortar business without claims of environmental compatibility leaping out at you. With all the buzz about green, it's easy to become either cynical to the hype, or simply overwhelmed by the amount of information. So what does green really mean for you and [your home](#)?

[Continue reading](#) →

This entry was posted in [Blog Posts](#), [Uncategorized](#) on [October 22, 2013](#).

Home Renovations: Why DIY Isn't Always a

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Good Idea

Leave a reply

Do-it-yourself projects can be a lot of fun. Nothing increases the satisfaction you feel from remodeling a part of your house than knowing you had a part in bringing the upgrade about.

But there are some kinds of projects that really are best left to the experts. It'll end up taking less time and costing less money, and the finished product will be of higher quality.



The key is to take a **realistic look** at what projects you and your family will be able to tackle and planning accordingly. Getting the whole family involved in tearing up your old bathroom can be fun, but it's important to keep a **few things** a mind when you're dividing the work that needs to be done between you and the professionals.

Hiring experts can sometimes make your project less expensive (source)

Balancing time and money in your project

Anyone who's remodeled a kitchen, bathroom or basement can tell you time and money are two sides of the same coin. Want a job done faster? It's probably going to cost more money. Want some more intricate tile work done in the bathroom? It's going to take more labor, which will increase your estimate.

These two major elements in any renovation project have a big impact on whether you'll use your DIY skills or call in the pros. Let's look at some of the costs first.

Finding the real costs

Remember: DIY doesn't always mean cheaper. Sometimes additional costs — supplies, tools, cleanup etc. — can add up to more than the cost of having a contractor do specific parts of the job.

For example: If you have to buy a special drill bit you'll only use once or a whole bucket of paint for a little trim work, it's less likely you'll save money over going with a contractor who already has the specialized tools or can keep the extra materials for another job.

What's more, you may end up having to pay experts to fix your mistakes. Contractors do this stuff for a living, and it takes a long time to learn the ins and out of the industry. Starting in on work without a plan or the needed expertise can lead to mistakes that will be expensive for an expert to correct later.

What's the time?

Also think about the time a project will take if you tackle it yourself as compared to hiring experts. Will your house be torn apart while you do the work? How much time can you commit to working on the job compared to a contractor who's there 8 hours a day until the job's done?

If you can chip away at a project for a few hours at a time over the next several months, maybe you can handle it yourself without disrupting the rest of the house too much. If you have to turn off the water or can't use the kitchen while repairs are underway, it might pay to get the work done as quickly as possible.

Bottom line: The right contractor will work with you to find a balance of things you can do and aspects of the job you'll leave up to them. Experienced decorators like Myles Albert and his team at Interior



Doing renovations yourself can increase your satisfaction when the project's over (source)

Excellence can handle your project from start to finish, giving you more flexibility in what parts of the upgrades you contribute to. What's more, they'll pass along any contractor discounts to you, making working with the best a more affordable proposition.

If you're looking to make renovations

that have a DIY component, [give us a call](#) today and Interior Excellence will come make a free estimate of your project.

This entry was posted in [Blog Posts](#) and tagged [basement](#), [bathroom](#), [contractors](#), [DIY](#), [do-it-yourself](#), [experts](#), [kitchen](#), [remodeling](#), [renovation](#) on [August 13, 2013](#).

3 'Green' Bathroom Renovation Ideas

[Leave a reply](#)

It's not always easy to predict return on investment when it comes to renovations to your home, from your basement to your bathroom or kitchen. For one thing, the market's always changing. Storage space is a top priority for prospective homeowners these days. A decade or two ago, remodelers were converting storage space to other amenities, hoping to increase the value of their homes. But because buyers' demands changed, they may have actually made their homes less desirable.

Most interior designers and contractors offer this advice: Don't make any significant renovations to your home just for resale value. Make upgrades that will increase your family's enjoyment of your home with an eye toward what will make your home more attractive to buyers.

Here's another consideration to add before you start planning remodeling: Look for renovations that will save your money. If your bathroom is on the older side, there are plenty of [affordable renovations](#) that will increase resale value and cut your monthly utility bills at the same time.

And to top it off, you'll be reducing your carbon footprint. Here are three ideas to get you started.

1. Focus on the toilet

The Environmental Protection Agency [estimates](#) more than a quarter of water used in the average household is literally flushed down the toilet.



Modern toilet designs and functions offer sustainability ... and some pretty unique design elements
[\(source\)](#)

It only makes sense then that toilets that use less water — or no water — are going to save your family a lot of money.

There are [newer toilets](#) that double as sink faucets, compost your waste and even lift their own lid before you sit down. But for most families, just upgrading to a more recent traditional toilet model will generate some significant savings.

Some renovators also suggest rearranging the layout of your bathroom to separate the toilet from the sink and/or shower for two reasons:

Much of the bacteria in any bathroom comes from the toilet. Separating this area can help cut down on germs and sickness.

Family members can shower or use the sink while another person is using the toilet. This essentially creates an extra half-bathroom in your home.

2. Lose the tub

Need to free up some space to create a separate area for your toilet? Lots of homeowners are ditching their bathtubs in favor of shower stalls.

Unless you're taking marathon showers, filling the tub for a bath almost always [uses more water](#) than a shower — especially if you install a low-flow showerhead during renovations. One way to tell:



Sustainable bathroom upgrades can boost savings while slashing your carbon footprint.

(source)

The next time you shower, close the drain and check how full the tub is by the time you're done.

Not ready to give up the comfort and convenience of a bathtub?

Many families opt to keep one bathroom with a tub and make more sustainable upgrades in other bathrooms in the house.

3. Keep fixtures working efficiently

Once [bathroom renovations](#) leave you with more modern and cheaper fixtures, it's your job to make sure they're running efficiently. A few ideas:

Get [leaky toilets](#) fixed immediately. The EPA says a leaky toilet can waste 200 gallons of water a day.

Check sink and shower drains for slow leaks.

Turn down your water heater temperature.

If you're looking to cut costs with renovations

in your bathroom, [give us a call](#) today and Interior Excellence will come make a free estimate of your project.

This entry was posted in [Blog Posts](#) and tagged [bathroom](#), [eco-friendly](#), [green](#), [shower](#), [sink](#), [sustainable](#), [toilet](#) on [August 7, 2013](#).

Bathroom renovations on a budget: 3 ways to cut costs

[Leave a reply](#)

Recent reports [suggest](#) bathroom renovations aren't getting any cheaper. But that doesn't mean they aren't worthwhile and can't still be affordable. With the right plan — and the right contractor — you can give your bathroom a facelift and an efficiency upgrade on a reasonable budget.

Here are three tips to help keep bathroom renovation costs low while still delivering a finished product that meets your needs.

1. Have a budget in mind

Depending on how handy you are, you and your family may want to tackle some of the early renovations yourself. Just remember to clear any work you plan to do with the contractor you hire to eliminate costly rework.

Outside the actual heavy lifting, it definitely pays to have some ideas when you first meet with a contractor. Part of that research should include developing a budget. Look at your finances and the cost of some of the features you'd like and start coming up with a preliminary number that the contractor can work with.

Remember: Bathroom renovations have the potential to [significantly cut utility costs](#) in your home. Make sure you factor these savings into your plans and budget.

As a design firm and construction contractor, Interior Excellence has the expertise to handle

every stage of your project — from conception through execution. From the earliest planning stages they'll be able to tell you what's realistic based on your budget and goals.



Sustainable improvements to your bathroom can help bring about a faster return on investment.

(source)

2. Know when to leave it up to an expert.

Plenty of renovation websites will tell you to shop for fixtures and materials for yourself.



Some DIY work can cut costs, while other tasks are best left to the experts (source)

In some cases, that may be a good idea. But when you're working with a contractor like [Interior Excellence](#), it doesn't. Myles and his team get significant contractor discounts and pass those savings directly on to you. The key: Your relationship with your contractor should be open and honest, not adversarial. If you're worried about getting "ripped off," you're probably not working with the right team.

3. Work with existing infrastructure.

It only makes sense that the more you have to move stuff around, the [more expensive](#) the renovations will be. That's especially true in bathroom work, where moving a sink or tub probably means expensive plumbing work.

As much as possible, maintain the current layout of the bathroom and use other design strategies to improve the space.

The same goes for materials. If you're able to use existing tile or limit the amount of tile you have to purchase, you'll be able to significantly cut costs.

If you're looking to increase

your enjoyment of your home and its the resale value by remodeling your bathroom, [give us a call today](#) and Interior Excellence will come make a free estimate of your project.

This entry was posted in [Blog Posts](#) and tagged [bathroom](#), [bathroom renovations](#), [budget](#), [do-it-yourself](#), [eco-friendly](#), [interior excellence](#), [sustainability](#) on July 30, 2013.

4 Things to Consider When Deciding on a New Jersey Basement Renovation Project

[Leave a reply](#)

The early stages of a remodeling project are always exciting — the sky's the limit as far as what you

can consider including in the project. And when you're renovating your basement, the opportunities are even greater. That new room could be used for just about anything. If you can imagine it, you might be able to incorporate it into your plans.

But those early stages in the process are also the best time to define your goals for the project, set your priorities, and figure out your limitations. [Continue reading →](#)

This entry was posted in [Blog Posts](#) and tagged [basement renovation](#), [budget](#), [contractor](#), [remodeling](#) on [May 17, 2013](#).

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Want to find out more information? Contact us to find out how we can help.

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The New Jersey Home Remodeling Blog

Refinishing your New Jersey Basement with a Low Ceiling

[Leave a reply](#)

A finished basement can add significant square footage to your home. What's more, you can customize this area to fit your specific needs — be it an exercise area, in-home movie theater, guest room or just another place for your family to gather and spend time together.

Whatever the use, one challenge many homeowners face when planning basement renovations is a low ceiling. Many basements, especially in older New Jersey homes, were built with low ceilings. But low ceilings shouldn't derail your renovation plans. [Continue reading →](#)

This entry was posted in [Blog Posts](#) on [May 2, 2013](#).

5 basement renovations that maximize the value of your New Jersey home

[Leave a reply](#)

Want to get more day-to-day enjoyment out of your home? Looking to set your house apart when it comes time to sell? These five basement renovation considerations can help you achieve both goals within the same project. [Continue reading →](#)

This entry was posted in [Blog Posts](#) and tagged [basement](#), [bathroom](#), [bedroom](#), [renovations](#), [return-on-investment](#) on [April 30, 2013](#).

Basement Renovation in Summit, NJ: Where to Get Do-it-Yourself Materials

Get In Touch

Have a question? We'd love to hear from you. [Contact us today](#) to find out how we can help.

[Leave a reply](#)

Do-it-yourself home improvement projects can quickly become expensive when you are paying retail for materials. The basement, along with kitchen, bedroom, and bathroom, are the most common destinations for do-it-yourself spruce up projects. For basements specifically, if you are just replacing a light, some tiling, drywall, or shelving, being able to purchase materials wholesale can keep your project under budget. If you are looking for specialty fixtures, it may be necessary to order from a nationwide vendor. However, if you are just looking for materials to cover the necessities,

For larger projects that may require an inspection, you may need a [home remodeling contractor](#).

Using a remodeling contractor can often save you time and money because an entire project can be completed for slightly more than you would pay if you purchased all the materials and did the work yourself (with far less hassle). If you are looking to remodel your basement in the Summit, NJ area, I invite you to contact me. I have been serving homeowners with remodeling projects in Central, NJ for 32 years. Call today for a free estimate.

Here is a list of do-it-yourself wholesalers that you can get materials from in the Summit, NJ area:

Powers Electrical Supply:

17 Newark Way
Maplewood, NJ 07040
(877) 561-6490

Jaeger Lumber

133 Main St #2
Madison, NJ 07940
(973) 377-1000

Grainger Supplies

55 Jackson Drive
Cranford, NJ 07016
(908) 272-7156

Twin Boro Lumber & Supply Center

162 West 1st Avenue
Roselle, NJ 07203
(908) 245-9350

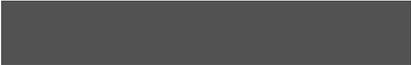
Standard Tile Supply
Summit, NJ 07901
(908) 277-1188

This entry was posted in [Blog Posts](#) on [April 15, 2013](#).

What Buyers are Looking for in Basement, Kitchen and Bathroom Remodeling

[Leave a reply](#)

Renovations can make a big impact on the enjoyment you and your family get out of your home,



Our Location

5 Killarney St
Bridgewater, NJ 08807
908-218-0200

myles@interiorexcellencellc.com

especially in parts of the house that get used a lot — whether that's the kitchen, the recreation room, or (let's face it) the bathroom.

But it's no secret remodeling your home can also boost its resale value. And as the housing market starts to rebound across the country, from New Jersey to California, 90% of people are buying existing homes rather than building new ones.

So it pays to consider what today's prospective buyer values most when you start looking at options for remodeling your home. You want the additions you make to stand out and set your house apart from others on the market.

The good news: The National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) [recently surveyed](#) home buyers to see exactly what they want in a new house. [Continue reading →](#)

This entry was posted in [Blog Posts](#) on [April 3, 2013](#).

How to Spot a Bad Remodeling Job BEFORE it's Finished

[Leave a reply](#)

Picking a contractor can be an overwhelming process for some. Most contractors will make big promises to secure your job. But, when it comes time to do the job, will they live up to these promises?

You should be cautious and methodical through each step of the process in order to protect your home from unscrupulous contractors. To start with while you are looking for a contractor there are a myriad of red flags you should keep in mind.

Warning signs you should be mindful of include:

an inability to produce references or samples of past work

a lack of the proper permits or license to work

no listed address

inability to produce proof of insurance

a request for payment in full

not requiring a written contract of all work to be performed

Finally, if you and the contract just don't "hit it off" you may want to consider someone else. If the relationship is abrasive to begin, odds are it will only get worse when money becomes involved.

Keeping these warning signs in mid can help you avoid a cheap, shoddy job before it begins.

This room might require a second coat of paint...

Once the work has begun you should inspect the work regularly. While you should be careful in the work area, any reputable contractor will allow you to inspect their work as they go. Some contractors try to cut corners in areas that won't be seen. Therefore, if your contractor is doing work in the bathroom or in another room where they will be working inside the walls you may want to check-in before the walls are closed back up.

Ensure that the agreed upon material was used and that the work meets specifications. It's easy to check on these things and make corrections while the job is active but once the walls are sealed then the cost and effort to verify your job greatly increase.

Next, small detail-oriented items are often the things that get missed in cheap, rush-job remodeling.

Therefore you should pay particularly close attention to things like the grout between tiling, edging, molding, and trim.

The Joy of Moldings has some great tips to spot and avoid bad paint jobs on moldings.

If a fixture was installed ensure that it feels securely anchored in place. Does it look to be level? If applicable, does it sit flush against the wall? Have a keen eye and don't be afraid to speak up if something does not look right.

Perhaps the most consistent tell-tale sign of a cheap remodeling job often isn't the job itself but the debris left behind by the contractor. Nearly without fail, a contractor doing cheap remodeling jobs will leave behind piles of debris from the job and other garbage.

These simple tips should help you avoid a cheap remodeling job and get what you deserve for your money. Remember, always inspect the work as it is done and simply speak up if something isn't to your liking.

If you want a [nj home remodeler](#) who prides himself on quality and craftsmanship, [contact us](#) today for a free estimate.

This entry was posted in [Blog Posts](#) on [March 28, 2013](#).

The Step by Step Guide to Waterproofing Bathrooms

[Leave a reply](#)

If you have a beautiful bathtub or shower in your house you certainly will want to keep it looking as stunning as the day it was installed. Unfortunately, showers and bathtubs are very high-stress areas. Every day your shower or bathtub is exposed to water, soap, shampoo and other substances that can leave behind deposits and make your bathroom look old. While perhaps this may be a great time to [remodel your nj bathroom](#), there are still other options available.

To remove the grime and prevent mildew from growing, we often use harsh chemical cleansers.

While these cleansers will restore the luster to your bathroom, over time they are eating away at the grout and seals that keep the water in your shower or tub and out of your walls. Luckily, there are a few steps you can take to re-seal your tub yourself should it start to leak. [Continue reading →](#)

This entry was posted in [Blog Posts](#) on [March 18, 2013](#).

The Most Affordable Ways to Remodel a Bathroom

[Leave a reply](#)

Upgrading the bathroom in one's home can transform the appearance and perceptions regarding your home. Removing those crusty old fixtures and freshening up the decor in your bathroom will make your home seem elegant, spacious, and clean. However, some bathroom remodeling jobs can often be extremely expensive and take an extremely long time to complete. But, not all remodeling jobs have to be a major expense or hassle. Let's take a look at how you can maximize the bang for your remodeling dollar and if there are any areas in particular you might want to hold off on fixing due to cost.

Surface Only Remodeling

To begin with, the most affordable way to [remodel a nj bathroom](#) is to remodel on the surface only.

What this essentially means is to make the most of the already existing general structure of the room.

You will just be replacing things that can be moved or covered easily. This means that new curtains, a

new coat of paint, and decorations will do most of the heavy lifting in this budget remodel. With some creativity and elbow grease truly impressive results can be achieved with just this basic remodel.

Shower and Bathtubs Only

If you need to do more than just replace and refresh things on the surface the remodel will undoubtedly cost more. However, this doesn't mean that you can't maximize the money you spend. Wear and tear on the tub or shower are one of the top reasons that people decide to remodel. Unfortunately replacing the tub or shower and potentially the underlying structure is often one of the most expensive parts. But, depending on the condition of the tub or shower you may be able to make repairs rather than a wholesale change.

Damage Control and Repair

While DIY repairs may be a financially attractive solution, it's just another short term solution to a long term problem.

If your tub or shower merely has a few cracks it may be possible to repair the damage yourself. Some individuals will choose to install a new tub liner. Others have opted to use a repair kit. Many major home improvement retailers sell Fiberglass or Acrylic shower repair kits. These kits are fairly simple to use and can be completed in about a day. They can be a great option to try. Still others will hire a contractor to refinish the tub or shower rather than replace it.

Creativity and the willingness to put in a little bit of sweat equity can make nearly any bathroom project affordable.

This entry was posted in [Blog Posts](#) on [March 11, 2013](#).

Real Life Horror Stories of Hiring a Bad NJ Contractor.

[Leave a reply](#)

Many people would cringe in horror at the idea of taking their car to a back alley garage in a dangerous part of town in order to get it fixed at a low price. When you want your car fixed you want honesty, reliability, and comfort that everything will be repaired correctly.

Therefore, it is surprising that many people open their homes to contracting companies with poor or no reputation. If you wouldn't trust your car to those circumstances then you certainly should not have any work done to your home without a reliable, honest, and professional contractor.

The Horror Stories (as collected from negative reviews)

Multiple anonymous New Jersey residents state that the Atco, NJ contractor they selected was "horrible, and very unprofessional." One claims that crew consistently drank alcohol while working on her job.

She states that the contractor used his subcontractors to consistently harass her for additional payments. Many complain of them doing shoddy work and leaving the job unfinished.

Others describe piles of debris left by the company, workers arriving without materials or tools, and a complete lack of communication or transparency. They all warn of disrupted lives.

Some construction workers you should avoid like the plague (source)

One parent describes her daughter having to sleep in another room because her bedroom was

damaged and left uninhabitable.

Another New Jersey resident describes a contractor lulling her into a false sense of security by showing impressive sample photographs while refusing to give personal references.

It turned out that this contractor simply subcontracted the project to a builder who then performed work that failed to approach the original representations. There are many things that can go wrong and many ways for unscrupulous contractors to deceive an unsuspecting client.

How You Can Screen Your Contractors

New Jersey residents need to be especially vigilant in selecting a contractor. Horror stories are simply all too common throughout the state. In response to this state-wide issue, New Jersey has created a Contractors' Registration Act which requires all home improvement contractors to obtain a license from the state annually. This ensures background history and proof of insurance.

One should always ask a contractor for their license and then verify it with the New Jersey Office of Consumer Affairs – Regulated Business Department.

While holding a license is a good start, you will still want to ensure that the company is trustworthy and reliable. Selecting and working with an [established and respected contractor](#) can ensure that your job goes smoothly, represents your unique style and tastes, and doesn't have any unwanted surprises in store.

This entry was posted in [Blog Posts](#) on [February 26, 2013](#).

Choosing The Right Flooring for Your Basement

[Leave a reply](#)

The modern home owner knows the value of utilizing all the space in their home, as well as the importance of saving money on utility bills. Finishing your basement is the first step in making your home a warmer, more fun, better organized, place. By adding new flooring and a few finishing touches, your newly insulated and designed basement will be your favorite room.

How Can I Tell My Flooring Needs an Upgrade?

If your basement floor is ever wet after rain or snow or gets condensation on the surface, you might need to consider reinsulation as the first step in adding new flooring. The basement is below the surface and is therefore completely susceptible to water infiltrating any cracks or crevices in the foundation. Buying a dehumidifier is a start for humidity issues, but ultimately the crux of the issue should be determined and fixed.

Once the basement is water tight, determine what your basement will be used for: man cave or kiddie play room, pub or mud room, home theatre or game room? The use will determine the flooring that is best suited for your family's needs.

Flooring Options for Basements

Carpet is the traditional option. Because it's resilient and easy to clean, Berber carpet, with its small loops, is often the best choice for the high traffic (possibly muddy) uses of a basement. Other types of carpet that require more padding are nice as well; they keep the basement warmer and dampen sound.

A more utilitarian option is vinyl flooring. Some styles of tiles have adhesive backing, which is excellent for home installation. Beware: if your flooring isn't perfectly level, this style vinyl might show imperfections.

Ceramic or porcelain tile is an excellent, though potentially pricy option. Tile does not wear out and can be easily installed in any shape room. Tiles come in a variety of designs so interesting patterns can be arranged.

Engineered hardwood and laminate flooring are a classy floor finishing. It adds the proper style warmth to any room design. Laminate flooring is floorboard that are designed to look like wood and made to click together for installation, while engineered hardwood is thin wood attached to plywood that has to be sealed to the foundation.

Finishing the floor with concrete is another option. A thin layer of concrete can contain a color so when laid atop the existing foundation a hue is visible. Or, if the existing floor is in acceptable condition, stain or paint the concrete with a slip free concrete paint. The paint in heavy traffic areas will have to be touched up in a few years.

The basement is a widely unused room that with a few simple modifications can save you money and add tons of enjoyment!

This entry was posted in [Blog Posts](#) on [February 3, 2013](#).

The Best Insulation Options for Your Basement

[Leave a reply](#)

Insulating your basement is the best way to keep your home warm and dry. If your basement has a tendency to become damp with condensation or has water infiltration during rain or thaw, it is time to get to the root of the problem and re-insulate. Water leakages could be a sign that your walls are filled with mold; this is an unhealthy, not structurally sound living situation.

Finding the source of your leakages

When reinsulating your home, you must first decide if the existing exterior or interior insulation is responsible for the leakages. Because you are dealing with an issue of a home that is already constructed and backfilled, your options are slightly more limited unless you involve digging.

Insulating the exterior keeps the home's warmth within the thermal envelope and allows for the possibility of installing rigid foam insulation. Exterior insulation also creates another layer of protection of your home from the elements. If interior insulation is the issue, you can add a layer of drywall and seal with rigid foam. You will lose actual space in the basement area, though this is usually the most cost effective method.

Choosing the right insulation

There are four types of insulation to choose from when reinsulating your basement: rolls of fiberglass insulation, loose-fill, rigid foam, and foam-in-place. Insulation's ability to keep a home warm is measured in "R-Values".

Rolls of fiberglass insulation have the lowest R-Value and are also more susceptible to mold growth when used in basements. Similar to a custom fiberglass application, loose-fill insulation is comprised of small fibers that get blown into place. Rigid foam has the highest R-Value and can cover the largest areas effectively. Foam-in-place is commonly used to fill leaks around windows or electric wires.

The image below was provided by [EnergyStar.gov](#) and provides a great overview of the common spots that leak air in houses.

"Wrapping" it all up

Whatever type of insulation you choose, you are saving money and staying healthier by keeping your home warmer and mold free. By finding the source of the water and air infiltration, you can decide whether to insulate the interior or exterior of your home. The types of insulation you choose is determined by the amount of space that needs to be filled in. Small chinks in the foundation can be fixed with a layer of foam-in-place. To keep the foundation of the sub grade basement dryer, consider having a layer of rigid foam installed. Whatever method of reinsulation you choose, know you are making an investment in the structure of your home.

This entry was posted in [Blog Posts](#) on [January 28, 2013](#).

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The New Jersey Home Remodeling Blog

Trends in Basement Remodeling for 2013

[Leave a reply](#)

Basement remodeling is one of the biggest trends for new homeowners in 2013. The modern homeowner is far too conscious of the value of their home to let a huge amount of space go unused. Consider turning your basement into a library or study. Leather armchairs to curl up in, built in bookshelves and a roll top desk would be a smart start.

A new game room?

A game room in the basement is an excellent way to move the teenage traffic downstairs. A fun foosball, air or pool table can be the showpiece of the room. Board game sized shelving can serve as wall art, or custom frame your favorite game. Game night is fun for the entire family.

Providing a place for the kids

A play room for the kiddies is a cute way to keep the toys from underfoot. Child sized activity tables are perfect for crafts and homework. Built in shelving and carton storage keep toys organized. Hang art projects and school honors on a corkboard so your child and any visitors can admire their success. For an extra touch, let the kids pick the colors and some of the wall hanging; it is there space, right!

The Elusive Man Cave

The term "man cave" has become fully implemented in our vocabulary; isn't it time your basement was a place for the men to retire? Wood paneling around the space is a nice start, along with a fully stocked bar, beer on tap, recessed lighting and sports memorabilia. A large TV is necessary, as is a refrigerator. For an extremely posh touch, have a smoke eater installed so the guys can have a cigar.

Give the Ladies Their Space Too

Why shouldn't the ladies have a cave as well? A

Classic Hollywood themed movie theatre style room

with a projector and popcorn cart, as well as a 1950's style wet bar to shake up some cosmopolitans

Get In Touch

Have a question? We'd love to hear from you. [Contact us today](#) to find out how we can help.

would make every lady feel like a star.

Use the basement during large family gatherings to lay out a diner spread larger than your traditional dining room can handle Use the dining room to feature cocktail hour, then move the party downstairs for seated dinner. Also, no matter the décor, a bar down the basement is a fun way to feel like you're out and about even if you're relaxing at home.

Whatever style you decide on for your basement remodeling, there are a few standards in basement remodeling. Make sure your basement doesn't have any water or condensation issues before laying new floors. When buying a couch, always spring for convertible so guests can spend the night.

Installing a bathroom in your new basement will definitely be worth the investment. Make the previously unused, new space a place everyone can use together.

This entry was posted in [Blog Posts](#) on [January 21, 2013](#).

Bathroom Remodeling Trends for 2013

1 Reply

If you have plans to [remodel your bathroom](#) in 2013, it might be worthwhile to research some design and function trends that have been popular lately. I will run down the top seven that I have seen emerging in the early part of the new year. [Continue reading](#) →

This entry was posted in [Blog Posts](#) on [January 16, 2013](#).

Steps to Take During Basement Remodeling to Keep Your New Room Warm

Leave a reply

Newly renovated homes stand a better chance of maintaining energy efficient heating and cooling systems than older homes. The lowest part of houses constructed after 1980 are built directly on top of the concrete foundation, which have gaps that can make air infiltration a real chiller.

When [renovating your home](#), there are a few steps your contractor should exercise to keep your home draft free. The biggest source of air leaks occur in home's exterior, the attic and the basement. Start keeping you home warmer by filling in gaping and other seemingly small holes in the home's exterior. While it seems minuscule, these little holes are forcing their way into your home & drastically changing the interior temperature.

The attic requires insulation to maintain heat loss, though it doesn't stop airflow leaks; you don't want to pay for heat that only escape into the attic! Look for discoloration spots on the insulation. The fiberglass acts as a sort of filter and contaminants from the air circulation mark giveaways. Simply lift the insulation up and caulk the gap that is visible.

The basement is the area of your home that requires the most negative airflow attention. All windows & wall joint areas should be freshly caulked or sprayed polyurethane foam to seal cracks between the foundation, even if no gaping is visible. Check areas that surround the holes in basement ceiling connecting the wires and piping and fill in any gaping.

Basements should have some sort of carpet to insulate against the cold. Wall to wall carpet and area rugs both hold warmth nicely, though wall to wall is superior because they are atop a layer of insulation.

Adding insulation to interior basement walls is advantageous in the struggle to keep your home warm. Interior wall basement insulation serves to separate the living space from the cool ground in which it is embedded.

When your basement's walls and floors are insulated, consider covering your pipes and wrapping a blanket around the hot water heater as well; research the style heater you have to purchase the best blanket for your home's needs. By keeping the heater and the pipes warm, heating elements will

Our Location

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have to turn on less.

Keep your home warmer by keeping the cold air out! Start by insulating your basement and work your way up.

If you are thinking about renovating a basement, kitchen, or bathroom

I invite you to contact me. I have been helping clients in New Jersey with their home renovation projects for over 30 years. For a free estimate, call us at 1 (908) 218-0200.

This entry was posted in [Blog Posts](#) on [December 19, 2012](#).

Damage from Sandy? Why It May be a Good Time to Renovate your Basement as Opposed to Making Cosmetic Repairs

[Leave a reply](#)

Hurricane Sandy has done horrible amounts of damage to homes that otherwise might never have seen flooding. Some homes flood every time there is heavy rain. The damage to a flooded home, no matter how many times it has happened, requires more severe renovation than just ripping up the carpets. There might be fundamental design flaws in your home that might need to be addressed to prevent future flooding.

Flooded basements are often overlooked in the renovation process. After the floodwater is removed, homeowners are more likely to spend their budget replacing the furnishings or sentimental objects lost in the tragedy. Left untreated, homes that experience flooding can make the occupants seriously sick.

The basement is the foundation of your home and should be cared for so it can continue to remain true.

Mold spores, caused by any serious moisture issues in a home, especially a space that continuously sees flooding, begin forming as soon as 24 hours after a flood. Mold spores are an environmental issue, contaminating your whole home, including the air, and can cause such sickness as: asthma, emphysema, fibromyalgia, sinus infection, and fatigue.

Water can seep into your basement in any number of ways, usually caused by heavy rainfall or extreme thawing conditions. Your home might be helping cause the flooded conditions!

A crack in the walls or foundation of the basement might be allowing water entryway into your home. Walls that might be completely water damaged should be replaced, not repainted.

Has the ground around your home eroded over time? If so, the depreciation your home sits in might be causing water to pool up around your foundation and soaks into the basement. Regrade your lot so the land around your home so water drains away from your home.

Foundation drains, also called weeping tiles or French drains, might be compromised or of not sufficient size, causing insufficient drainage. We have a great article published [here](#) that covers drainage solutions for your basement.

Downspouts & gutters might be compromised. Are they clear of debris? Is your downspout pointed away from your (& your neighbor's) home? Are they pointed on a downgrade so water can flow away?

Basement flooding can also be caused by the larger pipe systems in your home & community, including the sewer line between your home & the one in the street or an overabundance of backed up waste/rain water in the sewer.

After you have confirmed the reason your home floods & the fundamental design flaw has been addressed, consider covering walls & floors of a floodable basement with ceramic tile because the impermeable surface protects your foundation for easier cleanup.

Flooding causes much deeper issues than just cosmetic. Mold and other allergens can cause serious health issues.

Floodwaters can also compromise the foundation of your home. You owe it to your home and your

health to ensure flooding never happens again.

This entry was posted in [Blog Posts](#) on [December 7, 2012](#).

Unexpected Problems To Consider During a Basement Remodeling Job

[Leave a reply](#)

Unexpected issues often arise when you begin a new remodeling job, so we compiled a list of issues that our company looks for during our initial estimate but they are problems every homeowner should be aware of during each phase of your potential remodeling job.

Look Into Zoning Rules First

Each New Jersey town or city has its quirks when it comes to what you can build on your property and how you decide to use the space. You're going to have way less issues just making changes to the internal structure of your house as opposed to building a new addition, but it is always worth it to check into your local zoning board's website. You should also be aware of any zoning issues pertaining to the location, or height of additions on your property. There may be rules about building with a certain distance of one of your neighbors. Double checking the classification of your property (ie single family home, multi family home) is also useful to avoid issues.

Here's some of NJ's more common zoning board websites.

[Bernards Township Zoning Board](#)

[Berkeley Heights Township Zoning Board](#)

[Edison New Jersey Zoning Board](#)

[Summit New Jersey Zoning Board](#)

[New Providence Zoning Board](#)

Mold, Insects, or Asbestos

Sometimes when you start a home project, you can stumble upon environmental issues. Be prepared and don't panic if you come across anything that requires attention. It is better to catch it early than to let the problem continue. Be prepared for the additional cost and time required to complete the original project. You can also test for certain contaminants such as mold or lead before you begin. This can sometimes allow you to address the contamination issues prior to ripping up a room and having it sit while the larger issues are remediated.

Issues with the Utility Lines and Meters

This can sometimes be an issue, in particular in older homes. Sewer or water lines may be old or outdated to handle the volume a newly placed basement bathroom or shower.

Sometimes the disruption from construction can even crack old pipes. Electric lines can also be inadequate to handle the number of breakers that you would require to run appliances or electronics in a new room. You should always have your contractor evaluate the utility capacity of your current lines and what the addition or renovation will require.

Codes

Sometimes during do-it-yourself projects, you can run into the thresholds of work where code requirements come into play. This can sometimes lead to additional work that needs to be completed on other parts of your home. For instance, if your work requires that your plumbing has to be brought 'up-to-code' housewide, it could add an additional cost and time to the project. To avoid this, for large projects, hire a certified contractor who will know the size and what kind of projects will trigger code upgrades.

Problems with the Structure

Often, a basement is where you will first notice structural problems with the home. Many homeowners don't notice problems with the structure of the house until they have work

started on their basement. A qualified home remodeling contractor should be able to spot any issues, but indications of problems include surfaces that are not level, floors that sag, doors that don't open or shut properly, and cracks in the floors or walls of the basement. If you start work on a basement and see signs of structural issues, it is best to contact a structural engineer or a contractor that specializes in foundations to inspect the home immediately.

This entry was posted in [Blog Posts](#) on [November 27, 2012](#).

Hurricane Sandy Basement Clean Up and Remodeling Tips

[Leave a reply](#)

As New Jersey cleans up and recovers from the devastating effects of Hurricane Sandy, undoubtedly, many homeowner's are now facing the daunting task of cleaning up a flooded and damaged basement. Quick clean up is important because floodwaters may have deposited hazardous materials and extended exposure to moisture can produce mold – two very bad situations. Here are some tips to cleaning up flood damage:

Take pictures

If you are going to file an insurance claim, it is very important to take pictures before you start the clean up process. If the damage is considerable, try and get as much of the damage on film prior to contacting FEMA or your insurance company. This can go a long way in ensuring that you are properly compensated for the damage to your home.

Remove all the water

Getting rid of the water and moving safely away from any area where it can reenter your house should be your next step. If you have a sump pump, get it powered up and let it get to work. If power is going to be out for some time and you are able to, getting a generator to power your sump pump may prove invaluable. If you do not have a sump pump, make sure any drains in your basement are clear of any clogs or debris. If that does not help, you may then need to call a water removal expert.

Make sure that air is circulating

To the extent that you can, it will be helpful to open any windows or vents to the lower levels and keep fans circulating fresh air. The sooner that you can dry out, the less of a chance mold and mildew have to take hold in the moisture-rich environment.

Thoroughly clean the affected areas

Floodwater can often be contaminated with bacteria and hazardous materials, so be safe. If you have waterproof pants or overalls used for fishing, put them on and be sure to cover your hands and face with rubber gloves and a mask. Once the room is dried out, clean *all* affected surfaces with a disinfecting mixture of warm water and bleach. Make sure that you have the area well ventilated for this process also.

Remove any carpeting or drywall that is wet

If any of the carpet, drywall, or insulation in your basement was damaged, it will need to be replaced. You should not assume that it will dry out on its own; it most likely will store some level of moisture which can lead to mold or mildew contamination which can spread. You should also be sure to remove water affected insulation for the same reason. Be sure to check areas of drywall and insulation next to the areas that were affected to make sure that the moisture didn't spread. Don't feel bad being on the safe side when it comes to drywall removal. Replacing drywall is relatively inexpensive compared to dealing with a mold infestation.

Check for leaks

After the immediate concerns combating permanent damage are addressed, you should check the

area for leaks caused by water rushing in. Leaks often occur near any water spots near seams in the foundation, chimneys, windows, or pipes leading out.

If you are in need of basement repairs following the hurricane

God-willing, you should escape permanent mold

damage to your home if you take steps early enough.

After you have cleaned up, you may be left with a room that looks nothing like it did before the flood damage (especially if the room was finished). If you think home repairs may be necessary following

the effects of Hurricane Sandy, I invite you to contact me. I have been serving clients' home

remodeling needs in Central New Jersey for 32 years. A licensed [New Jersey home remodeling](#)

[contractor](#), I can help you rebuild after the storm and help rebuild the basement, kitchen, attic, or

bathroom of your dreams. Contact me today for a free estimate: (908) 218-0200.

This entry was posted in [Blog Posts](#) on [November 2, 2012](#).

Basement Remodeling: Lighting Considerations

[Leave a reply](#)

Basements can be one of the most challenging rooms in your house to light properly. When you finish your basement, obviously, the goal is to transform a dark space into a space that makes you feel like you are in any other room in the house. The most common choice for basement lighting is often

recessed because it is easy to install and doesn't take up any additional vertical space – which can

often be at a premium in a basement. The other benefit of recessed lighting in a basement is that it is

very adaptable to style. It is often inexpensive (if used in a suspended ceiling) and can be elegant,

modern, classic, or industrial. There are also many options in terms of casing, trim, and wattage.

Often though, a more functional approach to deciding on lighting types is to start with the purpose of

the room in mind and then determine the type of lighting that best fits that purpose.

Recreational Bar or Den

If you are thinking about turning your basement into a recreational bar area or den, you should

consider using track, monorail, or recessed lighting. Dens and bar areas tend to require less light than

other types of purposed rooms and track and monorail lighting can be directed and positioned to the

exact point that you need them. This also opens you up to adding decorative lamps or accent lighting

without overwhelming the amount of light in the room.

Play Room

For safety and aesthetic reasons, you would most likely want a play room to be brightly lit. If this is

the case, you should make sure to have someone check the limitations of your circuit box for your

basement. You will want to install as many lights as you can without overloading the circuit.

Florescent lights can be very well lit and allow you to add more lights on the same box than if you

were to use other types of lights.

Office

Surface mounted lights or directional lights work well for offices. You can also install a mixture of

lighting solutions such as recessed lighting in main areas with a spot lighting solution where your

desk is going to be located. An office space is about blending function with style, good illumination

where you need it, and style where you need it. You can put some recessed lights into inlaid areas to

add overall illumination to the room and adding a touch of professional style.

Workspace

Florescent lighting also works well for a functional workspace. As noted above, you can install many

lights and they give off a good illumination. An important consideration when building out a lighting

solution for a workspace is to think about expansion. Because you have one workbench and a set of

tools now, doesn't mean that you won't want to add space, a storage area, or additional space for

special projects in the future.

Sensors

Often, hands free sensors that will turn lights on and off when someone is entering or has exited the basement can save energy and provide a level of convenience and safety. Be sure to have the sensors installed close enough to the entrance of the basement as well as in the corners of the main space facing out, so that the lights will turn on as soon as someone enters the stairway down and stays on when you are using the space.

If you are thinking about remodeling your basement into a finished space

If you are thinking about [remodeling your basement](#), give me a call. I have helped many homeowners across Somerset, Union, Middlesex, and Mercer Counties remodel their basements into functional, finished space. For a free, in-home consultation, call me today at (908) 218-0200.

This entry was posted in [Blog Posts](#) on [October 16, 2012](#).

When is the best time of year to remodel my house?

1 Reply

This is a question many home owners will find themselves asking, and as we're still in the middle of an economic downturn, every bit of savings you can get should be welcome. What many will suggest is that you do your remodeling during the "off season", but just when exactly is the off season?

As it turns out, it really depends on the type of job.

Winter?

While Winter may not be the most enjoyable climate to remodel your house in, starting your home remodeling project between Thanksgiving and Christmas can be a very cost effective strategy. Many [contractors](#) find themselves out of projects as most clients don't want to deal with construction in their homes during the holidays. If you *are* willing, it can result in a negotiable price, and a solid savings. One thing to keep in mind is, if your remodeling involves an outside wall you may be losing heat until construction is complete. If you plan on doing this job yourself, one option is to purchase the materials in winter (when supplies are often cheaper) and store them until the weather warms up again. By the time spring rolls around, material prices will have likely increased, but you can refurb on the cheap, in nice weather to boot.

Winter is also the best time to work on your AC. For obvious reasons, it's rare that an AC repairman is overwhelmed with work in the dead of winter. If you have plans to extend or refurbish your air conditioning system, odds are you can get a deal on the service in the winter. Additionally, the best time to purchase a new AC is in winter.

As it turns out, January is the cheapest month to buy furniture and carpeting as well (Though July is the second best month for furniture). If you're planning to redo your family room or living room bottom up, get on it right after New Years to save.

Spring/Summer?

The same can be said for landscapers, who are typically hired for most of their work in Spring and Summer. If what you intend to plant won't grow that time of year, that doesn't mean you can't get a nice layout in place in preparation for the growth season. Shrubs, trees and bulbs are cheapest for purchase in the Fall, and if you have the means to store bulbs, you can plan them as soon as Spring has sprung.

Fall?

If you're [remodeling your kitchen](#), October is the best time to buy large appliances like refrigerators, stoves and dishwashers. And by the way, if you need tools for the job, the best time to buy is the second half of February or the first half of June (Father's day sales!)

Happy remodeling!

4 New Trends in Remodeling

1 Reply

With the winter and New Year approaching, it's important to take notice of the new remodeling trends that 2012 has introduced to because some of these trends can save you money and bring a new aesthetic to your home.

Homes today are returning to an earthy, northern country appeal. Energy efficient, easy to manage appliances along with warm colors can truly revamp your home. A homeowner will almost always want spaciousness. People tend to think remodeling and tearing down walls is the only way to achieve a spacious look. Repainting and retiling can also give your home spacious feeling. 2013 will see an influx of remodelers beginning to recommend their clients the following four new remodeling trends:

1.) Tiling

To attain a rustic, warm look in your bathroom, try stone or porcelain tile instead of glazed tile. Stone and porcelain tile last longer and both materials are easy to clean. Marble is always luxurious, but save marble for the kitchen. Bathrooms should have a more private and intimate feel.

Think of working in other amenities that are less permanent like ornate towels, towel racks, bowls, and light fixtures. A bathroom should be unique, but also hospitable and appealing to your guests.

2.) Paint/Wood Furnish

With a mixture of fresh tiling, a warm paint color can always restore a home-like feeling. Whether it's the bathroom, kitchen, den, dining room or living room, a new paint job can refresh the room's charisma. The living room can have a bright color scheme, but dens, kitchens, dining rooms, and bathrooms involve a rustic approach in today's real estate market.

The 2012 remodeling trends have returned to a wooden paneling approach. The paint should involve earthy colors (brown or green, maybe). Try plants and other foliage to give these a lively feel.

3.) Family Rooms

Homeowners are beginning to eliminate doors to give your kitchen, living room, and dining room an open aesthetic. When entertaining, having a large family room will give your home that spacious and outgoing look you were looking for.

4.) Sinks/showers

Bathroom appliances these days are siding with elaborate showers instead of the large jet-powered, Jacuzzi tubs. Showers are not only easier to clean, but also look more spalike and elegant. Door-less showers, a European tradition, are making a huge comeback. Glass shower doors are ultimately a hassle and are much harder to replace than curtains.

Kitchen and bathroom sinks, on the other hand, are taking a new age, metallic approach. Stainless steel is easier to clean because of its lack of nooks and crannies. A stainless steel sink is sleek and will always make a comeback as a remodeling trend.

These four remodeling trends are cheap, attractive, and easy to install. Dark paints, strong wood furnishings, wicker furniture, and ornate lighting are simple renovations that should take no longer than a day. Turn a holiday weekend into a quick, eye catching renovation project.

The 15 Biggest Basement Refinishing Mistakes : Part 2 of 3

In part 2 of 3 of The 15 Biggest Basement Refinishing Mistake we cover the next 5 mistakes to look out for when refinishing or remodeling your basement.

Inaccurate Measurements

Finishing a basement and baking a fantastic batch of cookies have one thing in common for sure: precise and accurate measurements are the key to success. The moment a measurement begins to sidle away from accuracy, whether it be by an inch or a teaspoon, the integrity of your endeavor is compromised.

In terms of finishing your basement space, accurate measurements will result in symmetry, strength, and a maximized shelf-life of the modifications you've made. If making measurements is not your forté, find another set of eyes to check your work.

Using the Wrong Tools

Using the wrong tool can be a tempting prospect, especially when the screw calls for a Phillips head and all you can find is a flat head. You may believe that your innovative approach to the screw is resourceful, but more often than not, you're going to end up with a banged up screwdriver and a screw that is no longer taking calls from any screwdrivers.

Basically, using the wrong tools creates the increased likelihood of damaging your tool and/or damaging your project. In the worst case, you may suffer some damage, too. For these reasons, it is imperative to use the correct tools for the job.

Ignoring Lighting

The lighting in your home is not to be ignored when choosing design statements. Lighting can effect the colors you've selected and the overall ambiance of the space. Remember, the lighting in your home should work with the alterations; they should complement each other. Think about the natural and artificial lighting in your home while you make your plans for best results.

After all, you have dedicated the time and attention to making your space special; it would be a shame not to illuminate your achievements.

Incorrect Storage of Materials

Refinishing a basement can be exhausting, but it is important to maintain a little reserve of energy for what should always be the last step of the day: cleaning up! Storing your materials properly can save you from having to make costly replacements. Store your supplies in a cool, dry place. Having a roll of plastic on hand is a cost-efficient way to protect your materials.

Forgetting to Update the Electrical System

Since the walls have done such an excellent job of concealing the complicated series of wires that is your home's electrical system, you may be tempted to ignore it when it comes time to start on the basement. Planning a walk-through with an electrician prior to launching your project will ensure that you have three-pronged outlets exactly where you need them. Additionally, you will have the peace of mind that comes with knowing that your electrical system is up to code.

This entry was posted in [Blog Posts](#) on [August 31, 2012](#).

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Want to find out more information? Contact us to find out how we can help.

Contact Us



The New Jersey Home Remodeling Blog

[The 15 Biggest Basement Refinishing Mistakes : Part 1 of 3](#)

1 Reply

In this three part series we'll be going over some of the smaller mistakes a home owner may overlook when they're planning to refinish or remodel their basement. In each installment we'll cover 5 problems eventually hitting the most major and potentially costly issues you might run into.

15. Buying Cheap Materials

Sometimes you really do get what you pay for, and while you might save some money with the initial project skimping on building materials can mean trouble down the road when it comes times for repairs.

Interior Excellence provides steep contractor discounts from top home improvement stores so spending a few more dollars on your basic materials can make a higher quality looking basement with less repair costs down the road.

14. Avoiding Permits

We've already covered the [importance of finding out what permits you need](#) in a previous post as it is definitely an issue we've ran into with homeowners trying to start with a DIY basement project.

While your basement may be underground and "out of view" cities are always looking for ways to increase revenue (ie fines!) and home inspectors will often cite missing permits when inspecting a home for sale.

13. Gutting Your Basement Completely

If you're working with a [contractor to remodel your basement](#) you can usually

Get In Touch

Have a question? We'd love to hear from you. [Contact us today](#) to find out how we can help.

avoid this mistake, but it's still important to discuss the details of the new basement and figure out whether existing rooms or storage space could be turned into a bathroom, a privacy wall, or an additional closet.

In a worst case scenario you could find a wall you want to remove is load-bearing which could seriously damage a home

12. Getting Too Trendy

Keeping up with some of the latest trends or designs is great, but it's important not to get swept up in the latest fad only to find it fade in a few years when you are looking to redecorate or even sell your home.

The style of your entire home should mesh seamlessly, and many times this means sticking to the tried and true styles, such as a Classic, Rustic, or English Country style.

11. Running an Ethernet or Cable Port

The cost benefits of a Wi-Fi network throughout the house may come into play here, but if you'd rather have a hard-wired ethernet port it's important to plan ahead to where a computer or gaming system might go.

For entertainment center's it could keep the new basement much cleaner by installing a cable port ahead of time for a television. Your other option if you want to install a cable connection in the future is to let a technician from the cable company run it (perhaps quite sloppily) or have an electrician run it through the wall.

We'll be finishing the list shortly and posting the next 5 basement finishing mistakes!

Image Sources: [1](#), [2](#), [3](#)

This entry was posted in [Blog Posts](#) on [August 21, 2012](#).

Bathroom Remodeling Ideas: Showers and Baths

[Leave a reply](#)

Just because you are remodeling your bathroom on a budget, it doesn't mean that the fixtures, size, or overall style of your shower or bath has to suffer. More and more people are paying attention to their bathroom as a show piece – adding modern style and flare to their layouts, whether it is the upstairs, downstairs, or guest bathroom. But it's not just luxury or the necessity of peace and quiet that has homeowners remodeling their bathrooms, an updated bathroom can be an excellent investment in the value of your home – especially if you can upgrade to a remodeled, modern bath on a budget.

Does it make sense to hire a remodeling contractor when remodeling your bathroom?

Many times, especially when remodeling a downstairs bath to include a tub or shower, size limitations aren't always the main obstacle. With so many options (everything from steam showers to jacuzzis), it can be easy to go overboard. Do-it-yourself remodeling projects can quickly get over budget. That is why it is sometimes best to hire a certified remodeling contractor. Rather than just upgrading fixtures (which at retail, can be very expensive on their own), remodeling contractors can change layouts, revolutionize storage options, take down walls, and add windows for more light. This can allow for larger showers or baths, in fact, when using a contractor, the options as far as layout can be almost limitless. And as such, you, the homeowner, are not bound to just buying expensive fixtures to complete your bathroom upgrade. Contractors can get materials cheaper, and can really make your new bathroom stand out the way you want it to, and often for the same price as going to do-it-yourself way.



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I'm going to share some trends with you that can add real value to your home.

Bathroom Remodeling Trends – Showers and baths

Large showers

Large showers are in. In smaller bathrooms, such as on the first floor, homeowners are rearranging sinks and cabinets and tearing down walls or tubs to expand the shower area. As such, people are moving away from the traditional, pre-fitted showers. Tile showers, partial walls, and hinged doors with heavy glass are the new trends. Many homeowners say it can make you feel like you've just been to a spa. On the extreme end, some homeowners are taking a European inspiration and turning their entire tiled bathroom into open areas where the shower is in a corner (an option that requires drainage considerations).

Soaking tubs

There is a trend of focusing on quiet and relaxation in the bathroom and bath, in particular. These jetless tubs are often deep, sometimes stand alone baths that can also become a centerpiece of your bathroom or guest bath.

Bright, open showers

This is popular in master bathrooms in particular. Homeowners want master baths to be brighter and more sun filled than before. Walls, fixtures, and showers that require curtains can cut down on the amount of light in a bathroom. Homeowners are ripping down fixtures, walls, adding windows, and in some cases, skylights to let more light in.

Steam baths

Another popular trend is adding a steam element to your bath – either a shower option that has tiled seating, or an installed, separate steam room. One consideration when thinking about adding a steam bath though – bathrooms often have to be reconfigured to allow use of a steam bath. These reconfigurations can include sloped ceilings to drain the condensation, adding a floor drain, having tile on all surfaces, and an air-tight door. If you think that sounds overwhelming think of this – all of those modifications can definitely be worth it – a master bedroom with a steam room can add serious value to the price of your home.

This entry was posted in [Blog Posts](#) on [July 30, 2012](#).

Remodeling Your Bathroom on a Budget

[Leave a reply](#)

When remodeling a room, you are adding to your home's value. You must always remember that when remodeling the bathroom, in particular, you are making an investment. Remodeling a bathroom doesn't involve as much materials as other remodeling jobs. Keep in mind that a toilets and showers don't always have to be replaced. A sink and toilet individually cost about (\$100 to \$400). Invest wisely.

For under \$200, these materials can considerably revamp your bathroom in less than a week:

Tile: The wall and floor tiles can be redone in a day. Tip: Add a pattern to your tile scheme; throw in different colors to give it a creative and elegant look.

Paint/Wall Paper: a new, "warm" color can turn your plain white bathroom into an ornate new room that won't go unnoticed. Wallpaper and paint are cheap these days and the labor to install these things are just as cheap.

Ceiling Lighting Fixture: A single room-remodeling job should always involve one high-ticket item. A well-styled bathroom should be seen. Put a vibrant lighting fixture.

Vanity/Mirror/Holder/Accessories: Don't be afraid to stylize a room with a theme that will emphasize the bathroom's overall aesthetic.

Simple materials can go a long way. However, if a bathroom is cluttered to begin with, post-

remodeling it may begin to look that way again. Invest in a recessed display cabinet. You can organize your toiletries more efficiently. The bathroom vanity is an integral part of your aesthetic and a simple investment in a granite bathroom vanity counter top can change everything.

Hotel bathrooms are luxurious often because of their spacious feeling. Try to recreate that in your own bathroom and you will notice a considerable change.

This entry was posted in [Blog Posts](#) on [July 16, 2012](#).

The Benefits of a Wood Burning Stove

[Leave a reply](#)

There are a few benefits in switching from gas to wood. The first benefit, which is the most beneficial overall, is the amount of money saved on gas by simply burning wood and heating a whole house from one heat source. You're probably asking yourself, "why would you need a wood burning stove in the middle of the summer?" A wood burning stove that is bought in these summer months will be infinitely cheaper and you will have enough time to transform your den, dining room, or living room into a well-heated sanctuary.

Wood burning stoves are simple to use. With fall and winter around the corner, you can eliminate your gas bill. Forbes.com and other consensus say that the average American spends nearly \$1,000 on gas per month, specifically in the winter months. Winter 2011 was at times mild and who knows what the next winter will bring. You can turn off your heating and spend only a hundred dollars every few weeks on wood, only using the stove when needed. Wood burning stoves have been used for thousands of years and you should keep in mind that wood is a renewable source, very easy to come by and costs next to nothing. The question is not about "going green", but is about becoming "recession proof." Here's the run down:

-The Stove: anywhere from \$300 to \$5,000

-The Installation: Installation of a wood burning stove involves only duct work. Creating a proper smoke release outside your house that runs via metal duct to the wood burning stove can last many years. Every season you may need to clean the duct line, but other than that, it involves very little upkeep.

-Wood: per month, \$100 (There are many cheap firewood dealers in every state)

With a simple Google search, you can find that wood burning stove dealers are abundant in New Jersey and the northeast area. However, with that same Google search, you can find hundreds of images that depict how little wood burning stoves are. They take up as much space as a night stand.

A wood burning stove can turn any nook or cranny into a comfortable area for reading and relaxing. In these winter seasons, turn your unused fireplace into an area for a stove that you can boil tea and relax with a loved one. Enjoy this winter with your very own personal fireplace.

This entry was posted in [Blog Posts](#) on [June 19, 2012](#).

Low Cost Remodeling with High Quality Results

[Leave a reply](#)

Any home project, whether it be bathroom, bedroom, kitchen, or beyond, can involve serious budgeting. However, a [high quality renovation](#) or remodeling project can cost you much less than you were originally estimating. A trip to Ikea can't always solve everything. Anything that involves money, involves time. When remodeling, you must always remember that with patience, a high quality low

budget project is based on saving money on materials and labor without sacrificing your own ideas. In order to stay true to your ideas you must first evaluate your budget.

Materials

Hardware stores today carry a lot of energy efficient materials that can help you save money in the long run. For instance, most remodelers advise to change out all CFL light bulbs with halogen flood light bulbs in kitchens for brighter, but energy efficient results. You can also add under cabinet lighting (LED, battery powered, etc.) and allow yourself to use less flood lighting. Electrical renovations tend to be most helpful in the long run.

Marble vanity countertops and marble tiling always comes costly. You should remember that marble is bought as full pieces and would cost less if you installed segments, using a mixture of wood and marble in a remodeling. You should keep in mind that ceramic tile still has the high-quality look that will allow you to create a masterpiece.

When purchasing the materials for your remodeling project, always remember to never skimp on paint, primer, and other materials that you need to last. High-quality paints and primers will give you the best appearance for the longest amount of time.

Labor

Redesigning and remodeling involves the largest amount of budgeting. Keep in mind that you should do as much labor as possible because ultimately the hardest work involves the most craftsmanship.

PREP the area you want remodeled. Labor costs you money by the hour and should be prepped correctly so laborers can immediately start their job.

SAND and CLEAN everything you can like walls and tile. Remove everything that needs to be removed so a laborer has a clean surface to begin work on.

Ultimately, a low cost high quality remodeling job can cost you less than you think and can take much less time if the proper mediums are in place. Remember that appropriating time correctly with the right materials and the right labor can help you redesign your home in the way you originally planned.

If you're looking for [remodeling work in New Jersey](#), contact Interior Excellence for a free quote at 908-218-0200

This entry was posted in [Blog Posts](#) on [June 14, 2012](#).

A Guide to New Jersey Remodeling and Renovation Licenses

1 Reply

New Jersey is fairly strict when it comes to making additions or remodeling your home. We've heard horror stories of people finishing basements or installing a new bathroom only to find out that upon selling their house – they need to spend an additional \$10,0000 to bring their renovations up to city code.

When do I actually need a building permit?

The type of work that requires a building permit can be broadly broken down into 5 areas:

contruction

plumbing work

mechanical work

substantial electric work

This type of work isn't just limited to building an addition to an existing home, it includes building new structures as well as altering or remodeling existing structures. There's also a lot of smaller "yard" projects that often need the approval of the city before you can begin. These can include:

decks

fences
sheds
tree houses
detached garages

In certain New Jersey towns you even need to look into getting a permit for projects such as installing a new fireplace, a hot water heater, and even a dishwasher.

What if I'm hiring a contractor – do they handle this?

Always take the time to ask the contractor whether he or she is handling the permit and licensing – knowing that the town and local inspectors are aware of your work could potentially save you thousands if the time comes to sell your house. Here at [Interior Excellence](#) we take care of the red tape and handle these permits and licenses for you, but for those of you working on a DIY project you can request these permits as the homeowner.

Be warned, if you have the building permits under your name, any outside contracting work you get hire could hold you liable for any injuries sustained – if you work with outside contractors have them handle the building permits.

Where can I locate my local building permit or license office?

A great source to locate the contact information of your permit office is [NJPermits.com](#)
For those of you looking for building permits within Somerset County use the drop down menu on the following page and locate your town for specifics:

[Somerset County Building Permit Contacts and Offices](#)

And for Union County follow the same instructions:

[Union County Building Permit Contacts and Offices](#)

This entry was posted in [Blog Posts](#) on [May 31, 2012](#).

The 5 Biggest Pitfalls in Remodeling your Bathroom

[Leave a reply](#)

Taking the right precautions before you begin a remodeling job often saves you the hassle of having to “clean up” any issues you might have taken some shortcuts on during the initial process. Below are 5 of the biggest pitfalls homeowners often face when remodeling their New Jersey homes.

1. Having a poorly planned remodeling budget

When discussing a budget most homeowners simply have a number in their head they want to spend. This is a good first start – but if you really want that number to stay accurate you need to delve a little deeper into the scope of your project. Think about what materials and labor account for that budget. While you can spend hours making sure every penny is accounted for, it's good practice to at least account for the “major” purchases required for a renovation. This can include:
toilets, sinks, showers, bathtubs
tiling, flooring, wall paper, countertops
costs for labor, licenses, and clean up

2. Not taking the time to get your permits or licenses

Skipping this step can quickly stop a project in its tracks. Counties and townships maintain strict

guidelines for remodeling or renovation jobs. The staff here at Interior Excellence takes the time to sign up for and display all the needed licenses and permits you need for New Jersey homes, but do-it-yourselfers often have limited experience in navigating the red tape that tends to surround the acquisition of many of these permits.

3. Focusing too much on price, and not enough on quality

Remodeling and renovation is expensive – there’s no question about that – but often times a homeowner might underestimate the benefits to doing a project right in an effort to save a few hundred dollars. The catch-22 in this situation is the additional costs it is going to take to keep a project up to date once you’ve finished it. A quality bathroom remodeling contract may not need any additional work for 10+ years, whereas the lower budget job might end up needing touch-ups as soon as 2-3 years after the project is finished

4. Picking the wrong items for your bathroom

Whether it’s tile, plumbing fixtures, wallpaper, or even paint you need to make sure you are picking out materials that fit the job your building out. Showers and baths can quickly turn the environment in a bathroom into a high-temperature, high humidity environment that can wreck havoc on materials not prepared or built to take this kind of environment.

5. Getting in over your head

While mistakes might be inevitable for any DIY project, there’s 2 areas of a bathroom remodeling job in which mistakes could quickly destroy a home, or even injure a person.

Electricity: The dangers of doing any electrical work should seem obvious to most DIYers, but this seemingly simple step still can cause unneeded danger for anyone doing remodeling work.

Electricity is not an area of a remodeling job you can afford to “learn as you go”. The dangers of a botched job exist long after the sawdust is swept up.

Plumbing: While the dangers of faulty plumbing might not be as life threatening as electricity, the damage to your home in this area can range from a leaky pipe all the way to catastrophic flooding from either a sink, toilet, or bathroom. Best to seek the advice of professionals when it comes to this type of work.

If you need help on a bathroom remodeling job feel free to [contact us](#) at 908-218-0200 for information on how we can help you finish your spring projects!

This entry was posted in [Blog Posts](#) on [May 29, 2012](#).

Remodeling with Resale Value in Mind

Anytime you’re looking to remodel or make an addition to your home its important to consider what kind of impact your renovation may have on the resale value of your home. Before we can even look into the specific areas of a home remodeling project that would bring the most return, it’s important to look at some factors *outside* the control of you and your family.

Location-Specific Factors to Consider

1. Weather



The location of your home plays a *huge* part in what renovations might give you the most value. Homes in California have completely different needs than homes in Maine, and taking a “seasonal” approach to your decision can definitely help you get the most value when you eventually resell. The length of the spring and summer

seasons have a major impact on additions such as decks or pools, and especially with pools this can make or break what kind of return you would get on your investment.

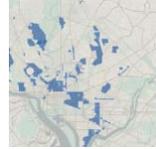
2. Surrounding Houses

There is such a thing as “doing too good of a job”. It’s essential to take a look at your surrounding neighborhood to get an understanding of the prices and effort your neighbors are putting into their houses. There’s many times when a homeowner



will spend thousands renovating their house only to find out they are now the price leaders in their neighborhoods. This not only diminishes the overall value of your house and it's renovations, but also could depress the overall value of your house no matter how great the work inside is.

3. Neighborhood/Zoning Conditions



For every addition you make on your home you're also taking valuable square feet away from your yard and are going to have to deal with the sometimes unneeded attention of your neighbors and zoning boards. Some of the biggest home remodeling mistakes occur when homeowners and contractors don't spend the time dealing with the red tape that comes with any major addition. A swift collection of signatures can easily land your project back on the "to-do list"

5 Home Renovation with Most Resale Value

5. Pools/Landscaping



Pools are a very location specific addition that really only provides resale value in the areas that have the nicest weather. It almost takes a year round summer to make a pool worthwhile, so unless your living in an area where you can swim 8/12 months of the year the value of your pool is not something you can confidently include in your home's resale value. Some homeowner's find that the price of a pool's upkeep is so high that its sometimes better to fill them in when selling your

house.

Extensive landscaping can have a similar effect. Spending 20K turning the *outside* of your house into a property that could grace the cover of Home & Gardens magazine may look great, but homeowners are rarely buying a house for purely the landscaping. A good buyer knows that more essential features of a house really give the property it's value.

4. Decks



While not as bad as pools, decks have a much higher chance of providing some resale value to your home. Again this type of addition depends a lot of on the average temperature of the seasons in your immediate area. The return from building a deck could get as high as 80% in areas with great weather conditions but expanding the deck in your Michigan home wouldn't get the return you would see in San Diego.

3. Additions



Taking the time and money to add a completely new addition takes longer to complete (due to zoning laws) but bring a much higher return on investment. One factor you'll need to balance is whether the reduction in your yard space is worth it. A lot of time expanding a house upwards might be a more worthwhile investment in the long run then turning valuable backyard space into a sunroom.

Expect to get

2. Kitchens



Kitchens are often the focus of the house and turn into an essential part of reselling any home. As this is often the highest traffic room in a house taking the time to do it right can make any open house a little more bearable. Expect to recoup up to 85% of an investment in a kitchen. Oftentimes this room is used so much that it requires much more frequent painting and upgrades to keep the room, as well as the appliances, in top shape.

1. Creating New Space out of Unused Rooms



Turning a previously unused area of the house into a functional room gives many of the benefits of an addition, but without the cost, sacrifices, and red tape that comes along with expanding your home further into your yard. Taking an attic and turning it into a bedroom can easily surpass a 90% return on your investment and it provides value without expanding your home into your yard.

Basements offer an equal amount of return and can drastically increase the

amount of square footage available to your household.

If you're looking to increase the resale value of your home by making an addition or remodeling an existing room give us a call today and Interior Excellence will come make a free estimate of your project.

This entry was posted in [Blog Posts](#) on [April 9, 2012](#).

8 iTunes Apps to Help Plan Your Remodeling Project

A contractor might do most of the work, but you still need to spend time planning out exactly what you are looking for in a home remodeling project. Whether you need to estimate the size of a basement to buy carpeting, or pick out what kind of wood you want your kitchen cabinets will be made of the eight applications for iPads or iPhone below should help you get started.



Sherwin Williams ColorSnap (free)

"Capture real world colors and match them to Sherwin-Williams paint colors—for free. With ColorSnap®, it's easy to take colorinspiration from a photo in your library or one you just snapped. Then choose matching colors or Ask Sherwin-Williams for recommendations. Either way, it's a cinch to match, adjust, and save colors."



Bananas Design Ruler Plus (free)

"RulerPlus is a simple application providing you with a basic 7 cm / 2 inch ruler, allowing you to take measurements quickly and easily. Ruler+ also allows you to extend the ruler. Simply move your iPhone/iPod to the right and press "+" to create the extended ruler." Supports centimeters / millimeters and inches."



The iHandy Carpenter (free)

"You can use iHandy Level for:

- Home decoration*
- Picture Alignment*
- Angle measurement*
- Measure the verticality of a wall, or furniture"*

The GE Moodcam (free)

"Change the mood of a photo with the GE MoodCam™! Take a picture of a room (or any scene!), then watch the mood change as you shift the lighting

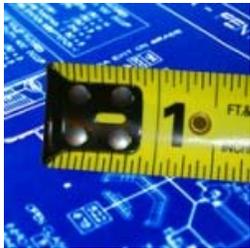


using the GE Moodometer™. Learn how to create the look at home, and even save a shopping list for a quick, easy way to find the right light bulbs in the lighting aisle.”



Home 3D (\$6.99 or \$8.99)

“Home 3D is the ultimate mobile tool for architects, home remodeling enthusiasts, interior designers and design hobbyists. Build your dream home in seconds, and take a stunning 3D virtual tour inside it!”



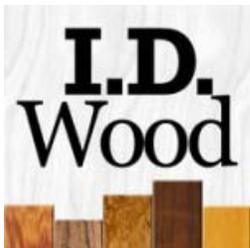
Home Sizer (\$2.99)

“Designing a new home? Working on a remodeling project or space planning? Home Sizer is the perfect tool for anyone wanting to estimate the size and function of their dream home, or to just calculate the square footage of an existing home. “



Handyman Sidekick (\$1.99)

“Are you a inspiring handyman or a professional contractor looking for a useful application that will save you loads of time and money on home improvement projects?. If you answered yes this application can is for you. How does it save money and time you ask?; well it contains four well thought out , well designed calculators for projects involving painting, wallpapering, flooring and gardening.”



I.D. Woods (\$4.99)

“I.D. Wood is your Pocket Guide to Woods from around the world with full screen samples and detailed information for over 200 different woods. The standalone application will work with or without an Internet connection so that the samples and information are always at your fingertips. “

This entry was posted in [Blog Posts](#) on [March 16, 2012](#).

Effective Ways to Waterproof a New Jersey Basement

There a distinct difference between the many methods of keeping your basement dry, but it boils down to two solutions: Waterproofing vs. Interior Water Drainage. Each has their advantages (and

disadvantages) but each solution can bring relief to excessively humid or flood-prone basements.

Waterproofing vs. Interior Water Drainage

Waterproofing involves taking steps *outside* of the foundation in order to prevent water from entering it in the first place, while interior water drainage refers to steps homeowners can take *inside* their basements in order to deal with an existing water flow issue.

It's no secret that waterproofing is a much more expensive and time consuming process than interior water drainage, but when complete, any basement renovation or remodeling efforts you might have undertaken are safe from Mother Nature's wrath.

Image courtesy of <http://www.drycretewp.com/>

Interior Drainage Methods

Interior drainage methods don't deal with the *real* problem (water leaking through a foundation) but instead focus on dealing with that water in order to keep your basement dry. The most popular solutions inevitably use a combination of these three methods below:

Application of Interior Sealants and Epoxies

Installation of Sump Pumps/Floor Drains

Installation French Drains

Interior Sealants

Interior sealants focus on filling the cracks and joints within your foundation with either an epoxy or urethane coating which penetrates through the foundation's cracks and joints in order to provide protection from seeping water.



Image courtesy of

<http://www.basementbuddys.com/>

This type of work is usually performed by a contractor, and can provide more than 10 years of protection for your basement. Used in conjunction with an interior drainage system, you can rest assured your basement stays dry in even the most extreme weather conditions.

Sump Pumps

Sump pumps are a common solution to basement water, and allow the water to collect within its reservoir which is then pumped out of the house using the sump pump. Typically incoming water is directed to these pump reservoirs using french drains and provides a powerful method to keep a basement dry.

Image courtesy of

<http://www.mymrbasement.com/>

The image above displays a typical sump pump installation. A good set up will include a cover over the reservoir which not only prevents moisture from leaking into the basement, but also provides a seal over possible radon gases that could leak from the system.

French Drains

French Drains are a style of drain that involve a ditch being dug which is then filled with gravel and a perforated pipe which allows water (and not debris) to filter through the gravel and get directed away by the pipes installed. With regards to interior drainage, french drains are typically used in order to

direct water from the interior wall of a house's foundation to a sump pump in order to allow that water to get pumped away.

Image courtesy of

<http://www.jesbasementsystems.com/>

In some houses a french drain can rely exclusively on gravity (and not a sump pump) in order to drain water in an basement, but this solution can easily get backfilled or clogged if heavy rainfall were to occur. Internal french drains aren't as big of an investment as an external drainage system, but can provide much needed relief without the need to dig around the outside of an entire home.

External Waterproofing and Drainage

Exterior waterproofing and drainage is the only method the IBC (International Building Code) recognizes as adequate to prevent structural damage caused by water. These methods are often more costly – as they require extensive digging around the outside of a foundation – but provide a final solution to water problems and prevent water from ever entering your basement in the first place.

Exterior Waterproofing

Often done hand in hand with the installation of an exterior drainage system, exterior waterproofing involves the application of layer of polymer to the outside of a homes foundation in order to prevent water from ever entering a basement. The polymers used for this method have seen some great advances lately, and often are not effected by the PH of soil, and last for the lifetime of a building.



Image courtesy of

<http://www.basementwaterproofingpro.com/>

Exterior Drainage Systems

This is the ultimate solution to waterproofing your home, and when installed with the application of a exterior sealant almost all water can be stopped from entering a home. Much like the french drain used indoors, this drain relies on gravel and a pipe system in order to draw water away from your home.

The image below shows an example of an exterior french drain being installed around a house.



Image courtesy of

<http://boston.basementtechnologies.com/>

While this solution involves contractors digging ditches around the entire perimeter of your house, this solution provides a solution to the problem instead of dealing with water once it has already penetrated your foundation.

Eventually owners of this style of drain may have to deal with a possible clogged pipe, but when installed properly there is typically a method to flush the pipes without having to dig up your yard in order to access the pipes.

All of these methods can provide relief for a basement, and in some cases they can allow you to turn a mildewy basement into a family room or den in order to increase the value and living space of your house.

For more information on basement remodeling and redesign throughout New Jersey contact us at 908.210.0200 for a free in-home estimate!

This entry was posted in [Blog Posts](#) on [January 16, 2012](#).

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The New Jersey Home Remodeling Blog

'Living Concrete' and Other Emerging Construction Technologies

Get In Touch

Have a question? We'd love to hear from you. [Contact us today](#) to find out how we can help.

Originally discovered by the Romans, concrete has turned into one of the most widespread construction materials in use today. It is actually the sole reason why ancient structures such as the Pantheon and the Roman aqueducts are still in existence today (both use a core of concrete surrounded by masonry materials).

Even back then, builders were familiar with various additives they could add to their concrete mix in order to improve certain qualities of the material. Volcanic ash was added to allow concrete to set underwater, horse hair was used to decrease the amount of cracks that occurred while the concrete hardened, and even blood was used to make their concrete structures frost resistant.

Blood might not be a commonplace additive these days, but multiple companies have been researching technologies that will be bringing this age-old building material to the brink of modern technology.

Living Concrete

The words "living" and "concrete" have rarely graced the same sentence, but the [Delft Institute of Technology](#) has pioneered a concrete impregnated with bacteria that allows the material to repair itself when the concrete inevitably starts to crack. When a crack or fault does occur small pockets of food and bacteria, when exposed to air and water, are activated and cracks within the material are quickly filled by this living compound. What this can do in the long run is drastically increase the lifespan of buildings and roads that use this material when originally constructed. While this product is still in the development phase, it has the potential to revolutionize the industry.

Bio-concrete





Our Location

5 Killarney St

Bridgewater, NJ 08807

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myles@interiorexcellencellc.com

Concrete Cloth

Used mainly in rapidly deployable concrete structures, concrete cloth is a flexible canvas based material that when exposed to water (ie sprayed with a hose), hardens to a tough concrete material that has all the material properties of normal concrete. As the video below explains this material is used primarily by a UK based company that provides a quick and easy to set up concrete canvas structure that not only provides shelter from the elements, but protection from more destructive forces that could easily tear through a normal canvas structure.



The 'Carbon Negative' Concrete Replacement

Researchers in New Jersey's own Rutgers University and [Solidia Technologies](#) are on their way to developing a construction material that is stronger than concrete and uses recyclable instead of traditional concrete aggregates.

This makes a material that is not only durable, but carbon negative as well. In comparison traditional concrete manufacturing methods account for roughly 5% of CO2 emissions.

The key to this material is a proprietary process known as "Low Temperature Solidification" (LST) which combines CO2, landfill construction waste, and minerals into this new concrete replacement. While this material is still not available commercially, it's one of many examples of new technologies that continue to push construction technology forward

This entry was posted in [Blog Posts](#) on [December 29, 2011](#).

Whats "New" in New Jersey Kitchen Remodeling?

[Leave a reply](#)

Kitchen remodeling within the New Jersey area has been a hot topic lately. It's no secret that remodeling your kitchen is one of the highest return-on-investments you can make to your home. Not only does the renovation provide value to your family, but it can greatly improve your resale value when/if you decide to move into a new home.

[Fixr.com](#) recently published a very interesting study that lists the trendiest kitchen remodeling trends that have hit the market since 2011. Whether you are seeking advice on the latest appliances to install, or deciding whether or not to "go green" with your kitchen, this survey should *at least* give you an idea of what features your neighbors may be clamoring over.

So what's "new" in New Jersey these days?

General Kitchen Style

This year more than 85% of survey participants voted for "green" as the kitchen style they'll be using in their remodeling plans this year. Beating out more traditional choices such as Shaker, Contemporary, and Traditional.



Cabinetry Materials

Stainless steel emerged as the top choice this year for cabinet materials. In a trend that is evident in appliances as well, stainless steel not only provides superior quality when it comes to durability but it's ability to repel stains that would decimate normal wood cabinetry makes this a front runner.

Despite green kitchen designs winning most of the votes this year, recycled materials came in second place compared to stainless steel this year. The top finishes this year for faucets and refrigerators was also Stainless Steel.

Flooring Materials

Reclaimed wood won more than 85% of the votes for trendiest flooring materials this year.

Reclaimed wood flooring uses wood that is repurposed from older houses and building due for demolition, and cleans them up to live their "second lives" as your new kitchen floor. Bamboo came in second place, but consumers are still leaning more and more to a more "green" solution to their home repair work.

Cooking Options

Fixr's survey also looked at popular options for heating elements in today's kitchens. Induction stovetops took 85% of the votes, followed closely by gas cooktops and wall ovens. Many homeowners have very strong preferences here that usually lean towards what cooking element they are most comfortable cooking with. If you've ever cooked on an electric range after getting used to a gas stove you'll know exactly what we are talking about.

Whether you're looking to create a warmer and more inviting kitchen for your family, or looking to increase the value of your house before you sell it, renovating your New Jersey kitchen can bring enormous benefits to your home and family.

If you need an estimate for a New Jersey kitchen renovation don't hesitate to contact us at 908.218.0200

Interior Excellence Launches New Website

[Leave a reply](#)

In an effort to help our clients learn as much as possible about our renovation and remodeling process before they get an estimate we have redesigned www.InteriorExcellenceLLC.com in order to help you make more informed decisions.

Recently featured in [The Bridgewater Patch](#), we've been providing home remodeling and renovation services for more than 32 years. If you have any questions feel free to contact us and we'll get back to you shortly.

This entry was posted in [Blog Posts](#) on [December 6, 2011](#).

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