

WHY DIY YOUR HOME?

If you're looking to increase the value of your home or property, you may consider a DIY design approach to fix it up in the style you prefer while saving money.

DIY DESIGN Checklist

Although working with a designer is helpful for selecting the right fixtures and finishes, it can be done independently to add personality to your property.

It's crucial to communicate clearly with your contractor and discuss your plans together on the site to avoid regretting design decisions later.

To ensure a satisfactory outcome, below is a foolproof checklist for fixture and finish selection, regardless of the project. Whether it's painting an accent wall or building a brand new house, **the principles below can help achieve a harmonious look without the assistance of a designer.**

GET ORGANIZED

FIRST, YOU'LL NEED TO GET A LIST TOGETHER OF WHAT YOU WILL NEED TO SOURCE. THE MORE DETAILED YOU ARE IN BEGINNING, THE BETTER.

- ☐ **WORK CLOSELY WITH YOUR CONTRACTOR TO AGREE UPON WHAT MATERIALS WILL BE OWNER SOURCED.**
- ☐ **CREATE A SPREADSHEET TO CALL OUT THE FOLLOWING IN THE COLUMN HEADERS:**
 - ☐ **LOCATION** (ie Kitchen)
 - ☐ **ITEM** (ie Countertop)
 - ☐ **QTY** (ie 100 sf)
 - ☐ **SELLER** (ie My Local Showroom)
 - ☐ **BRAND** (ie Pental Quartz)
 - ☐ **MODEL #** (ie #DKGT)
 - ☐ **SIZE** (ie 1/2" thick)
 - ☐ **FINISH** (ie 'Film Noir')
 - ☐ **SAMPLE REC'D** (Yes/ No)
 - ☐ **NOTES** (As Needed)
 - ☐ **DATE REQUIRED ON SITE** (By Contractor)

- ☐ **Tip:** Adding a column for the **COST** of the item will help you with budgeting if this is part of your scope of work.

TYPICAL ITEMS TO SELECT

BE SURE TO REVIEW THE ITEM REQUIREMENTS FOR THE AREAS YOU'RE WORKING WITH. THESE ARE THE MOST COMMON ITEMS CONSIDERED:

- ☐ **FLOORING**
- ☐ **WALL & TRIM PAINT / STAIN**
- ☐ **LIGHTING FIXTURES**
- ☐ **FURNITURE**
- ☐ **KITCHEN, BATH & LAUNRY ITEMS:**
 - ☐ **Cabinetry Finish**
 - ☐ **Countertop**
 - ☐ **Hardware**
 - ☐ **Backsplash Tile**
 - ☐ **Grout Color**
 - ☐ **Accent Tile**
 - ☐ **Plumbing Fixtures** (Faucets, Sinks, Toilets)
 - ☐ **Accessories** (Mirrors, Towel hooks, etc)
 - ☐ **Appliances** (Stove, Fridge, Bidet, etc)

NOTE: SAMPLES ARE NOT AVAILABLE FOR PRE-CONSTRUCTED VANITY SETS it can be difficult to match your tile, paint, plumbing fixtures, and accessories without them. Make sure you order them early to match with your samples.

WORKING WITH SAMPLES

- Place your samples on a white background (you can use printer paper). Using anything else can 'change' the color of your sample.
- Place samples next to others that will be next to each other in your actual space
- Keep ratios in mind. You can layer trim colors or other materials that won't be as prominent by placing a portion of it behind another sample
- I suggest having one accent color that takes up no more than 25% of your board (can be different materials)
- Look at your samples at all different times of day in the room they will end up going.

WORKING WITHOUT SAMPLES

- Gather internet images of the products, or the product finish you're interested in.
- Get them together in a document (or even print them out) where you can move them around, adjust the relative size, etc.
- Look at the accessories and finishes together on the same screen to get an idea of how they will work together
- Step back and look at things conceptually instead of in detail
- Take your time! Sometimes getting it right doesn't happen right away. You will know when it feels right!

THINKING ABOUT RESALE?

- **IMPROVE CURB APPEAL:** The first impression that your home makes on potential buyers is crucial, so make sure that the exterior of your home looks attractive and well-maintained. This could include repainting the exterior, adding landscaping or updating the front door.
- **UPGRADE KITCHEN:** The kitchen is often considered the heart of the home, so updating it can have a big impact on its value. Consider upgrading the countertops, cabinets, and appliances to give them a fresh, modern look.
- **UPGRADE BATHROOM:** Bathrooms are another important area that buyers pay attention to. Upgrading the fixtures, replacing old tiles, and adding a new coat of paint can make a big difference.
- **ADD MORE SPACE:** If your home feels cramped or doesn't have enough space, consider adding more. This could include finishing the basement, building an addition, or converting an unused space into a bedroom or office.
- **MAKE ENERGY-EFFICIENT UPGRADES:** Energy-efficient upgrades such as adding insulation, upgrading windows and doors, or installing a new HVAC system can not only save you money on energy bills but also increase your home's value.

ASK YOURSELF THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

- ☐ Does your list **include all the materials** needed for the build? (Think finishes, fixtures, appliances, etc)
- ☐ Have you **ordered all the samples and put them together?** Taking your time to lay out all your options, compare and contrast them, and consider how they look in different light conditions will help you make choices you'll feel good about as you move forward
- ☐ Have you gathered **inspirational images** and pointed out the features you want to include?
- ☐ Have you **tested your paint colors or stains** where you plan on finishing them and looked at them in different lighting? (Before buying a whole gallon)

FEELING TECH SAAVY?

- ☐ Consider using 3D modeling software to help visualize your space
- ☐ Try out free software programs such as Sketchup, Blender, and TinkerCAD
- ☐ Watch YouTube videos to gather tricks and tips

TIPS FOR SOURCING

As a rule of thumb see what you can find locally first before shopping online. Doing a google map search will help here.

If you're looking for something more unique, shipping products is very doable. Look for businesses and products that are B-Corp Certified as a priority (which regulates their social and environmental performance). If the product includes a description of its environmental impact it's a good sign.

STILL NEED HELP?

If you need a second opinion, don't hesitate to reach out to a designer or gather **feedback from others** who may be occupying the space. Remember, it's your space and you should make design decisions that will make you and your future self happy!

When in doubt, take your time. Sometimes decision-making requires sleeping on it. Rome wasn't built in a day!