



## HANDY HOME RENOVATION CHECKLIST

# 12 considerations before you renovate

**Renovating your home is an incredibly exciting time, with lots of big ideas and creativity running through your mind – but it's also a big undertaking. Our handy checklist will ensure you have all the essentials covered and, most importantly, that your home is fully equipped to make your renovation dreams come true.**

## Planning

Every successful renovation – no matter how big or small – starts with a thorough planning stage. It's essential to create a roadmap to success and assess any risks before you pick up the tools. This is the all-important stage where you do the research so you know exactly what you need to get started and if your goals are achievable. Here are some thought starters:

- 1 What type of renovation are you planning? Is it just a few small modifications or some large-scale changes?
- 2 What's your budget? (Tip: Working under fixed-price agreements can help your project stay on budget.)
- 3 What's your timeline?
- 4 Do the renovations need council approval? (Contact your local council or visit their website for details as this can vary based on where you live.)

- 5 Will you be working with an architect to design the renovation?
- 6 Will you be able to live in your home during the renovations?  
If not, do you have a plan in place for where you will stay?

## Design

- 1 Do the renovations address your changing lifestyle needs in the long term?

**USING UNIVERSAL DESIGN PRINCIPLES<sup>1</sup> (WHERE PEOPLE OF ALL AGES AND ABILITIES CAN BE COMFORTABLE IN THE SPACE) BOTH IN THE RENOVATED AREA AND, IF POSSIBLE, THROUGHOUT THE REST OF YOUR HOME WILL HELP ENSURE YOU CAN STAY AT HOME LONGER AS YOU AGE.**

Here's what you need to consider when designing your renovation:

- Single-storey living
- No steps
- Low-maintenance upkeep
- Widened doorways
- Wheelchair-accessible pathways around your home and exterior (e.g. garden, garage/carport and home entrance)
- Ramp to the front door, if required
- Non-slip flooring
- Handrails and grab rails (in the bathroom), as needed
- Walk-in shower instead of a bathtub

The Australian Government's My Aged Care scheme<sup>2</sup> provides support for some home modifications. Hop online to see if you're eligible and learn more about their [services](#).

# Implementation

- 1 If you need council approval, have you also let your neighbours know about your intentions to renovate?
- 2 Have you commissioned a builder? Are they licensed and insured?
- 3 Do you have legal contracts in place with your builder and other trade professionals working on the renovation?
- 4 Do you have a financial 'safety net' if you go over budget? (Around 10–20% of the overall budget is a common suggestion.)

Have you reviewed your **home insurance?** Check to see if renovations are covered under your current policy. And once renovations are complete, update the policy to ensure you are fully covered for your newly modified home.

