

GOOD THINGS COME TO THOSE WHO WAIT

STORY **YANIC SIMARD**



Looking to renovate a room or two? Want to refresh your space before a big event? No

matter the size or style of project you're planning, this guide will help you know how long you really need to achieve your home makeover – and trust me, it's nothing like what you've seen on television.

1 RESEARCH PHASE: 1-5 MONTHS

Knowing your goals and limits will help you set realistic goals and avoid major hiccups that can derail your timeline.

Start by gathering lots of ideas. Save images from magazines and blogs – the more you collect, the easier it will be to figure out what elements you are drawn to again and again, and which are fleeting trends. Give this 1-2 months at the very least to find ideas that stand the test of time.

Gather lots of ideas to help determine what you are drawn to most.



PHOTO: TARA CHATTELL

Television often portrays renovations as costing much less than they do, so it's important to determine what you want to spend and what your dream design will cost. Starting with a realistic and honest budget (with padding for emergencies) will help you and your designer avoid big surprises later that can end up halting your plans.

Make sure to check with local building codes, inspectors, condo or neighbourhood boards (and the like) to make sure your dreams are possible. This can take just 1 week to 3 months, depending on your site conditions, so it's smart to start early.

5 DESIGN PHASE: 2-12 MONTHS

A seemingly simple project can involve five times as many decisions as you might think, so give ample time to get the details right.

Renovating a kitchen or bathroom? Besides selecting the basics like paint colours, you'll need to choose the grout colour, tile pattern, orientation of cabinet handles, paint finish, placement of light fixtures, style of faucet, counter edge profile... the list goes on, and can seem overwhelming when rushed. Give at least 6 weeks to 2 months for one room, and at least 4 to 6 months for a large multi-room project. Choosing many elements that work together can take a lot of searching and re-evaluating, and it's much easier to change your mind before construction or delivery than after.



PHOTO: NEETO DA SILVA

Allow plenty of time to avoid rushed decisions.

17 CONSTRUCTION/ DELIVERY PHASE: 2-9 MONTHS

Even the best plans can be interrupted by sudden surprises. Plan for this phase to take longer than just the expected working time of the physical labour.

Expect even minor construction to take at least 1 month to prepare, conduct and touch up, with 2 to 6 months for larger projects. Then add a time buffer of 1 to 3 months before any sort of event when you want the work completed, to account for surprises.

In this detached basement bathroom renovation, for example, we had very low ceilings (just under six feet) and only a single sconce above the vanity mirror, not providing nearly enough light for the entire space. We had planned to increase the ceiling height and add recessed lighting. During demolition we discovered venting all through the above area and no room for pot lights. We required a bit of time to come up with an alternative plan, which was this stunning, sleek custom LED feature running from floor to ceiling and overhead. It created ample illumination and is beautiful. The solution also allowed us to hang our new mirror very close to the ceiling, creating the illusion of even more height in the room, and allowing the LED strip to reflect. Fortunately, with buffer time in place, we had the plan reworked for the better, and the beautiful results were worth the extra wait!



PHOTO: NEETO DA SILVA

Always plan for the unexpected.

If you've been doing the math, you'll see that even small projects can easily take almost half a year, which is far from the three days you see on television. However, you get what you put into your design, and taking the proper time leads to timeless results – all while avoiding a lot of stress and the potential for costly mistakes along the way. Working with a reputable firm can expedite this process and keep you on time and on budget. **OH**

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