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Renovation Planning & Contractor Bid Checklist

A free homeowner guide from contractors.id

Scoping Your Project Realistically

Before you request a bid

- ☐ Define your project type and rough scale
- ☐ Decide if you're keeping the existing layout or changing it
- ☐ Set a finish-level expectation (budget, mid-range, or high-end)
- ☐ Note whether structural, plumbing, or electrical changes are involved

What Really Drives Renovation Cost

Biggest cost multipliers

- ☐ Moving plumbing or gas lines
- ☐ Structural changes (removing/adding walls)
- ☐ Permits and inspections for larger projects
- ☐ High-end finish and appliance choices

Comparing Contractor Bids Fairly

Before you sign

- ☐ Get at least 2-3 written, itemized bids
- ☐ Confirm license and insurance directly with your state board
- ☐ Ask whether permits are included in the quote
- ☐ Clarify payment schedule and timeline expectations
- ☐ Watch for bids that are unusually low — ask why

Ready to compare real bids?

Run your project through our free scope builder at contractors.id and get matched with vetted general contractors — free, no obligation.

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