

cont. from page 14

Prepare for a Remodel

number needs to include everything-the project, products, contingencies, etc. Don't be afraid to share this with your remodeler; professionals are respectful of a client's budget and will create a plan around it, not over it.

Use advanced search for professionals. The online world makes it easy to gather information about strangers. Ask friends, family and neighbors for referrals and then spend time researching that person online. Professional remodelers take their reputation seriously and hold credentials beyond licensing, such as certifications, memberships in trade associations and additional training. Look for examples of press coverage or involvement in industry presentations or events. Check online reviews and social media to see how they interact with past clients and peers.

Ask the right questions. Time and cost are important, but getting the right information requires the right questions. Ask your professional remodeler about his educational background, training, specialties or past issues with clients.



Ask about how the remodeling process will work.

Verify your remodeler. Don't take their word for it. Check the information given to you such as references, license numbers, insurance information and certifications by calling providers to verify. Request a visit to an active client's jobsite. Make it known that you are checking on him-a true professional considers that as a positive sign to working with a homeowner.

Review contracts word-by-word. A remodeling contract

cont. on page 30