



How to prepare for your first meeting with a Tradie

Introduction:

So, you've had tradesmen applying for your project. You have selected a few to give you a quote, and you're ready to meet with them.

But are you really prepared?

A successful house renovation starts with careful planning and early decision making on your part. With this in mind, we've put together a few questions you should ask yourself before your first meeting with a tradesman.



1. **Have you prepared a budget?**
2. **Are you aware of council regulations regarding your type of home renovation?**
3. **Do you know your start and completion dates?**
4. **Have you selected the products/materials you want to use for your renovation?**
5. **Have you got properly drawn plans?**
6. **What services are available to your property?**



1. Have you prepared a budget?

One of the very first things you should do when considering renovating your home is to consider your financial situation and come up with a realistic budget for your renovations and how much you are willing to spend on your refurbishment. Also

how you are going to pay for it. Remember home renovating and building can be costly so make sure you have worked out a proper budget. If you are unsure on how much you will need, it's best to do a bit of research prior to requesting a quote.

2. Are you aware of council regulations regarding your home renovation?

Find out all the information you can before you meet with the trades people. Bear in mind that many home extensions and house renovations must

be approved by the council before work can commence. Contact your local council for more details regarding your building requirements.

3. Do you know your start and completion dates?

Communicate with your tradesman and come to an agreement of realistic start and completion dates for your home renovation. If you have a specific date that the job must be finished by, let your tradesman know at the first meeting. Keep in mind that unexpected problems can hold up your

home renovating, no matter how well you have planned it, so allow for some flexibility, and know that good communication between you and your trades people will go a long way towards the timely completion of your home renovation project.



4. Have you selected the products/materials you want to use for your home improvement project?

Selecting products and materials for your house renovation may take a while. So make sure you've allowed yourself the time to find the right materials for the look you desire, are practical for your needs, and are within your budget. You may wish to undertake shopping expeditions or browse through a print or online catalogue to help you. Deciding on a certain style for your new kitchen or bathroom will narrow down your product choices. When choosing appliances, find out the product

specifications and measure up your renovating space. At the first meeting, talk to your tradesman about your choices. If the tradesman tells you that a product you have chosen is unsuitable, find out why and ask for an alternative. Whether you're building brand new home extensions or engaging in house renovating on a smaller scale, it is best to have specifications of all of the products and materials you would like to use so the tradesmen know exactly what work is required.

5. Have you got properly drawn plans?

It is important that you draw up plans for the renovation of your existing bathroom or kitchen, or the construction of your new patio or other home extensions you've chosen to do. If you have already drawn up the plans, ensure you upload them to

your job listing or discuss the plans with your tradesman. Let him know what sort of products you would like, so he will know what work needs to be done.

6. What services are available to your property?

Before you start the home renovation, you will have to decide whether you need gas or electric appliances. If you currently have electric appliances and you want to change to gas, speak with your tradesmen to determine if this is going to be cost effective and worthwhile in the long run. If you are

building a new kitchen or bathroom, decide on the appliances you want before building begins and let your builders know, as the plumbing, gas fitting or electrical will need to be worked into your building plans and budget.