

Tips and trends for homeowners, buyers and sellers

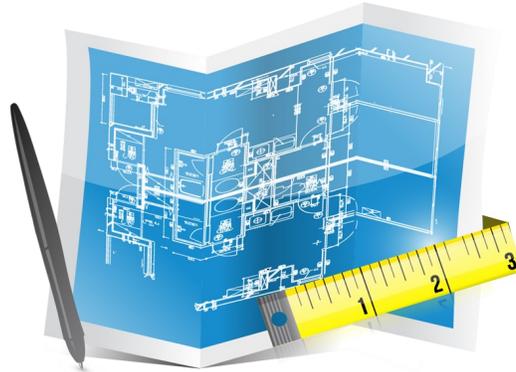
Game Plan

If you're thinking about putting on an addition to your home this year, you should begin planning now. Your vision for how the new space will look is important, but there are a few things you must consider before getting started on new construction.

Budget—Keep careful notes on quotes from contractors and compare those to how much you're willing to spend. Good advice would suggest that your budget include more than originally planned to account for emergencies. As always, don't go overboard—only plan for an addition that you can comfortably afford, and ask your contractor for ideas on how to cut back in case costs exceed the amount expected.

Zoning and Paperwork

—Before breaking ground, review all paperwork and local laws to ensure your construction project is compliant. Make sure you have the proper insurance policies in place in the event something goes wrong. Having knowledge of all aspects of the addition will help you prevent incurring fines or having to adjust plans.



Space planning—Bigger is not always better when adding rooms to your home. Think about how you plan to use the room—how many people you want to fit in it comfortably, what activities will be done there, etc. Remember, an efficient space is more ideal than simply adding square footage.

Interior preparation—Large construction projects can cause dust and potential damage. Make sure you've moved items away from the area you plan to renovate, or consider putting some furniture or other items in storage. You may be excited about getting a new space, but you don't want to ruin anything in your house.

The New Normal:

A Strong Housing Market
Expected to Continue

Fewer listings, low mortgage rates and working from home have created a "New Normal." Surveys show that people have changed the way they view their homes. Many want quieter neighborhoods, home offices, updated kitchens and access to the great outdoors. What are you looking for?

Today's market is competitive and strong. So if you are thinking about buying or selling, contact me to schedule a free consultation.



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