

# **Listening and Communication is not only good for relationships but working with contractors as well.**

You're living in a remodeling nightmare on the precipice of a catastrophe. Now you're standing in the chaos of the devastation asking how did it all go so horribly wrong so horribly fast? Poor communication and selective listening can slowly poison your projects and make you wish it was all just a bad dream. Childish behaviors can sometimes be unleashed when you're working with a contractor, it's best to leave those childish behaviors to your little ones and embrace a more rational attitude towards the project(s) at hand. Patience is truly a virtue when working to complete a remodeling project. Here is some advice so you're not trapped in a communication horror.

1. Pay attention to how prospective contractors respond to your questions. If they seem unconcerned about your questions/concerns now, communication break downs could happen throughout your project.
2. Don't let price be the deciding factor when choosing a contractor. Keep in mind that price doesn't mean equal level of service. Make sure you're comfortable and can work with the contractor you choose.
3. Let your contractor and Project Manager know the most efficient way to keep in contact with you. (Phone, Text or E-mail.)
4. Never feel apprehensive about voicing any concerns. Make sure there are clear rules on how you would like things handled in and around your home. One example is the bathroom, depending on the type of project(s) being performed contractors may or may not have a portable bathroom for their employees. Let the contractor know if you would or wouldn't feel comfortable letting them use your bathroom. Just like you, contractors will have some rules as well. Make sure you both communicate what your rules are so everyone is understanding what is to be expected from each other.
5. Ignoring professional advice can not only be devastating towards your health but also your home. Houses are intricate structures that have the capability to have hidden surprises. There are several factors that determine whether a project is practical, functional and safe. A good contractor is willing to work and listen to your ideas, but won't give the authorization for any risky home remodel.

Remodeling projects can be an emotional roller coaster but good communicating and listening effectively can turn what could have been a disaster into an easily handled situation.