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DIY VS HIRE A CONTRACTOR

Should you do the job yourself or hire a contractor???
Take this quiz and find out!

DIY is a popular trend in home improvement today. Before you grab a hammer and start swinging, you should know of potential problems you might face. NARI (National Association of the Remodeling Industry) recommends that you take this short quiz before you make a decision.

Yes or No

1. Do you enjoy physical labor?
2. Are you patient and persistent?
3. Do you have reliable work habits? Once the project starts, will it get finished?
4. Do you have all of the tools and skills necessary for the job?
5. What level of quality do you want? Do your skills match that level?
6. Do you have the time required to complete the project? TIP... Double or triple the time estimated for a DIY unless you are very familiar with all aspects of the project.
7. Will it matter to you if the project remains unfinished for a period of time?
8. Are you prepared to handle additional household stress this project may cause in your family?
9. Do you know and understand all of the steps involved and the correct order of the steps?
10. Have you gotten the installation instructions from each manufacturer of the items in your project to determine if you want to use the item in your project?
11. Is this a job you can do completely by yourself or will you need assistance? If assistance is needed, what skill level of help will you need? If you need a specialty contractor, do you have access to a skilled labor pool?
12. Are you familiar with your local building codes and permit requirements? *Some areas require work to be done by licensed and bonded trades in order for that work to meet code.
13. What will you do if the project goes awry?
14. Is it safe for you to do this project? *Some projects have hazards that can be fatal if a mistake is made (electric & roofing).
15. Who will supply materials, delivery?
16. Are you looking at DIY for financial reasons? If so, have you included all of the costs? Materials, time, tools, oversights, surprises?
17. If you are trying DIY for the satisfaction of doing it yourself can you ensure that quality of the finished product will be satisfying to you? If it doesn't come out right how will you feel? What about the cost of a re-do?

DIY projects can be rewarding and fun if you are prepared and have the proper skills. However, you need to be aware that home improvement DIY can be hazardous to your wallet and your health.

If you answered "yes" to eight or more of these questions you might attempt a DIY project. But before you take off to your local hardware store, revisit the questions with a "no" answer and consider the potential problems you may face in those areas before you proceed. Hiring a pro may still be your best choice.

NARI suggests that you be prepared and take your time in selecting a home improvement professional. At Master Remodelers we want to remind consumers that such a project can be one of the most important investments that a homeowner makes.

All information supplied by NARI. Visit NARI.org for more information

