

Avoid DIY Disasters



Do-it-yourself disasters can happen to anyone. Here's how to avoid them in your next home project.



Define the project scope. Whether you wish to expand the kitchen or paint a fresh new colour on your walls, identify the parameters of the project and then decide if you can do the work yourself.



Be realistic about your technical skill and experience. A simple project may turn into a complicated mess if you've never done it before.



Do you need permits? Depending on the work involved, you may need to obtain a permit before you can begin the project. Not doing so can result in costly fines and time setbacks.



What are the estimated costs involved? Create an outline or spreadsheet of the projected costs associated with the project, including materials, fees, etc.



How long will it take? While you may be able to paint the hallway in an afternoon, more extensive projects may take several weeks to complete.



Get bids from contractors and vendors to determine whether it would make financial sense to hire a professional instead of doing it yourself.



Do you have a backup plan? Sometimes things don't go according to plan. Assess your ability to handle the unexpected and prepare to get help if necessary.



- 5** Projects that may require a professional
- 1 Structural changes to the home
 - 2 Anything electrical
 - 3 Roofing
 - 4 Plumbing
 - 5 Insulation

Source: Houzz

