



3801-5 WRIGHTSVILLE AVE.
P.O. BOX 3101
WILMINGTON, NC 28406

910-799-2611, FAX 910-799-2610
www.wilmingtonhomebuilders.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 13, 2010

Contact: Lindsay Fletcher
910-799-2611

Celebrating National Home Remodeling Month with Tips on a Successful Home Remodel

Wilmington, N.C. – May is National Home Remodeling Month and the Wilmington-Cape Fear Home Builders Association's (WCFHBA) Cape Fear Remodelers Council is home to some of the area's top contractors. As summer approaches, many of the Association's members are busy as homeowners grow eager to start remodeling projects to update and refresh their surroundings. Before homeowners get started, WCFHBA President John Lancaster points out that it's a good idea to hire a professional remodeler for a workable plan and better results.

"A professional remodeler knows how to translate a client's dreams and budget into a beautiful reality," said Lancaster. "They have the expertise and skills to satisfy a customer while keeping the budget in check."

Here are five tips for planning a successful home remodel that you can enjoy for many years to come.

1. Compile a list of home remodeling ideas and draft a budget for the work.

You likely have some projects in mind, such as modernizing the bathroom, renovating the kitchen, replacing windows or repairing the roof. Prioritize your wish list: Maybe you don't have the budget for your dream remodel, but professional remodelers can maximize your dollars by doing the work in phases, suggesting budget-friendly products and materials, and implementing creative design solutions.

2. Look for a professional remodeler to help plan the project.

Start by searching the WCFBA's online Directory of Professional Remodelers at www.wilmingtonhomebuilders.com. Consumers will find a list of nearby remodelers for any and all types of renovation to contact. The staff at the WCFHBA office can also provide information on qualified contractors who have the latest certifications like the new EPA required Lead-Based Painting, Renovation and Repair Certification.

3. Check the references and background of the remodeler.

After you start speaking with remodelers and find one or two who match your project's needs, be sure to conduct some background research by checking with the Better Business Bureau, talking to their references, and asking if they are a trade association member (such as WCFHBA and the Cape Fear Remodelers Council). Remodelers with these qualities tend to be more reliable, better educated, and more likely to stay on top of construction and design trends.

4. Agree on a contract.

Talk over the details of the home remodeling project and begin reviewing the contract. You'll want to check the remodelers' insurance coverage, ask about any warranties on their work, know who is responsible for obtaining any building permits, and understand the process for making any change orders after the contract is signed. Make sure that you and your remodeler see eye to eye before you sign on the dotted line.

5. Take advantage of the energy efficiency tax credits.

If your remodel includes replacing windows or doors, adding insulation, installing new roofing, upgrading heating or air-conditioning units, updating the water heater, or installing energy generating products (such as solar panels, heat pumps, or wind turbines) then you can take advantage of federal energy efficiency tax credits through 2010 that will help defray costs and maximize your remodeling budget while reducing home energy bills. (Learn more at www.nahb.org/efficiencytaxcredit.)

For more tips on planning a home remodel or hiring a professional remodeler, visit www.nahb.org/remodel or contact the WCFHBA at (910) 799-2611.

The Wilmington – Cape Fear Home Builders Association is a 1,100 member-firm trade association that provides services to its more than 9,500 individual members which enhance their success and stability. The largest trade association in eastern North Carolina, the Association serves as the voice of the building and development industries that strives to advance professionalism and promote community involvement. WCFHBA is recognized as a

positive influential force for responsible growth by protecting property rights and the privilege of homeownership.

-#-