



To Do-It-Yourself or Call A PRO?

When to know if you can handle a home improvement project or need a pro.

A guide from GkosienskiConstruction.com , Call 203.464.1751

DIY vs. Call a Pro

Do-It-Yourself home repairs are great, to-a-point. It is important to know when to CALL A PRO.

This is not an attempt to steer you toward *Hiring a Pro*.

This is a “*Self-Assessment*” to help you make an informed and objective personal decision.

The onslaught of all the home improvement TV shows in recent years has more people than ever attempting to “DIY”. Many more are left wanting the improvements they see. These shows (by design) make it look easy. You don’t see the planning, staging and behind the scenes activities.

Most people achieve a great level of satisfaction in completing a home improvement project. As a home improvement contractor I achieve that same sense of satisfaction. There are some valuable bragging rights of the DIY “Weekend Warrior”.

HOW DO YOU DECIDE WHEN TO DIY?

WHEN IS IT BEST TO “CALL A PRO”?

I trust that the following information will help you make a more informed decision which path to take when “NAILING DOWN YOUR NEXT PROJECT” or “Honey Dew List”.

Prepare before any project large or small. Do your homework. Know what finished look you are going to be happy with. The more details, pictures plans and information you have, in advance of the project, the better it will turn out. This applies to either DIY or Pro Projects.

The following is a **self-assessment (be honest)**, consider the following:

- **Skill** level-most projects look simple at face value. What do you do if???? Anything can go wrong will go...Can you deliver a finished look you (or your spouse) will be satisfied with.

- **Tools**-do you have the right tools & equipment for the job, do you know how to use them.
- **Physical ability**-Obviously, if you have a bad back, roofing might not be such a good idea to DIY. Much of this work can be physically demanding. Make safety awareness a priority.
- **Time**-to devote to project. My wife isn’t happy if I take “Too Long” to do remodeling work on my own home. There is a disruption to our household. I know what you go thru. We all

want it done as quick as possible, done well, cleaned-up, finished and out. Project excitement peaks at the very beginning and end of any large project. We all look forward to the completion. The times in-between are a necessity to achieve the goal. The time always seems longer when you DIY.

- **Financial Resources**-Do you have the resources to hire out. It's always more costly to hire a contractor to do a project. However, bad DIY results might cost you more than a PRO job.
- **Human Resources**-Are reliable helper's available to you, as needed, thru-out the project?
- **Level of income**-Will your time be more cost effective to hire out, will the project distract you from your income producing ability. Does your insurance cover disability in case of an accident and lost income?
- **Loss of use due to the nature of the project**-Disruption of the household. If you have one bathroom you don't want it tied up any longer than necessary. Consider inconvenience and basic living necessities.
- **Project management** and coordination ability-Do you understand the sequence of events, when to do what; i.e....the framing, electrical, insulation.....
- **Consequences of Mistakes**-Job gone wrong. Plumbing/roof leaks, electrical, quality of workmanship, property value loss, does the job perform as needed? Wrong special order items are normally non-refundable.
- **Safety/Skills**-Entry doors have certain safety procedures to secure properly. Electrical work or pipe sweating by anyone other than trained tradesmen is never a good idea. Do you have knowledge of equipment safety and work-place safety, etc?
- **Can you finish** the project?
- **YOU WILL YOU MISS YOUR GOLF TIME?**

For the DIY-Don't try to take on too much, start small. You can climb a mountain; it's still one step at a time. Complete one project at a time. This will help to keep your satisfaction level up. Multi-tasking is a great buzzword, just not for novice remodeling.

Weather it's a DIY or Pro job, focus on the end result and try to enjoy the process. Always be honest with yourself (DIY) or the Pro regarding the look and progress of the job as you go. It's easier to make minor changes on a work in progress than to attempt to redo it later.

I hope you get the same satisfaction I do from this work and most important of all-**BE SAFE!**

If you would like to discuss this or are interested in other articles, please contact me at gary@GkosienskiConstruction.com, www.GKosienskiConstruction.com or call (203) 440-2712.

Naturally, we would welcome the opportunity to be of service for any of you're home (or commercial) remodeling, repair or "Honey Dew" lists large or small.

May you have the best of luck!

Gary Kosienski, Owner
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P.S. We also do "**DIY RESCUE MISSIONS**"

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