



THE DIY
HOME PROJECT PLANNER
& Workbook

*Everything you need to plan and complete your
home renovations & home décor projects!*

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SETTING
for **FOUR**

THE DIY HOME PROJECT PLANNER & WORKBOOK

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Introduction

The key to every successful home project is **planning**! Creating a plan for your home projects gives you a guide and consecutive steps to follow. It also keeps you on track and creates a timeline so that you actually finish the projects you've been dreaming about (or started and never finished!)

I created this DIY home project planner & workbook for myself to help my husband and I finish our own home renovations and decorating projects.... and because it's been such a lifesaver to me and my design clients I want to share it with you too!

This planner and workbook is what I used to complete [our dark to white kitchen remodel](#) on time and with all the function & décor elements that I wanted our new kitchen to have. It's also what I used to complete our recent [living room makeover](#)! **This planner works!!** It's easy to follow and keeps all the details in one place so you'll never forget a project contact name, name of a product or it's source.

Every home project needs a plan that has 8 essential steps!

The Home Project Plan:

1. Identify the function of the space
2. Keep / replace
3. The feeling of the space
4. Find and gather inspiration
5. Set a budget
6. Create a materials list
7. Contacts & references
8. Set a project timeline

1

Identify the function of the space

The first step to achieving a successful home project is to figure out what the space will be used for, what its function will be. Do you want your living room to be a space to entertain and watch TV? Will your kids play there too? Do you need an area for a desk and computer area or will that go in another room? If you don't decide on the function of the space then the reno or design project won't be successful! You won't get what you want, because it won't be in the plan. Think of all the functions you want the space to have and include them in the project plan.

Project Overview Table

- Print out this table at the end of the workbook.
- Fill in all the information including all the functions that you want your room to have.

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Identify the feeling of the space

The next step in good project planning is to decide on how you want the space to feel. Do you want it to feel lively and stimulating? Or the opposite – calm and relaxing? Adding this to the project plan will ensure that you select the right materials, colors, furniture and décor that will create the exact feeling you are looking for. Add the feeling of the room to the *Project Overview table* at the end of the workbook.

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Keep / replace

Once you've decided on the function and feeling of the room now it's time to decide on what to keep in the room and what to replace.

Keep / Replace List

- Print out this list at the end of the workbook.
- Based on the function and feel, that you decided on in step 1 and 2, assess each item that's in the room and decide if: it will stay in the room, if you will donate it, throw it out or move to another room. Decide what items you need to replace and what items are missing that you need to add. Be decisive! If you have sentimental items that you can't part with, but don't use, move them to the attic or basement or give to another family member to enjoy! Design your space to be one you totally and completely love!
- For example, maybe you need storage for kids toys but you don't have enough – that would be an item to add. Maybe your sofa is worn and uncomfortable and needs to be replaced. Perhaps you can move a lamp into another room to make way for a new one!

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Find and gather inspiration

Gather pictures and website links to rooms that you are inspired by and love the look of. Head to Instagram, Pinterest, Houzz and bookmark your favorite bloggers websites. Save the rooms that inspire you. Browse magazines & tour model homes. You'll often find a common thread after you've gathered inspiration. Perhaps all of your inspiration photos have white cabinet doors...then this should be added to your project plan. Here are some of the ways I gather inspiration:

[Instagram](#)

I absolutely LOVE using Instagram to find room and DIY project inspiration! If you don't have an IG account I highly recommend you create one and start using IG for new ideas on rooms to drool over! I'd love for you [to follow me on Instagram](#)

too! You can search for ideas using hashtags in the Instagram search bar such as #bedrooms #livingrooms #decor #farmhouse #traditional ect. When you search with one of these hashtags, all of the IG posts that use these hashtags will appear. You can save IG posts that you love to refer to later. I'm saving IG photos to my phone for a home office remodel that I'm currently working on and am showing my carpenter these images so we can create a cabinet design together.

[Pinterest](#)

I love using Pinterest too. You can easily search for room inspiration and DIY tutorial inspiration on Pinterest! You'll find rooms from designers, influencers and products from retailers too. I'd love for you [to follow me on Pinterest!](#) I have a ton of gorgeous rooms pinned on my boards! For your next home project create a secret Pinterest board and begin pinning rooms and ideas that inspire you. You'll find a common thread appearing in style, color ect. Edit the pin descriptions with what you love about it. If you have another family member that wants a voice in the project have them pin to this same secret Pinterest board.

[YouTube:](#)

I use YouTube for DIY tutorial inspiration. I think there is a YouTube video for everything! You can save the ones you want to refer to later.

For example maybe you want to add wall molding and a chair rail to a room. Search for those types of tutorial videos and save the ones that will help you complete the project. ***I'd LOVE for you to [subscribe to my YouTube channel](#) where you can watch my design and décor videos!***

Model Homes:

I love touring model homes! I always find new color combinations and styling ideas! Often the furniture is from a local or online source so you can even find furniture ideas too! Model homes will inspire you with room layouts, a whole home paint color palette and fixed finishes such as tile, carpeting, lighting and hardwood floors. Ask the sales associates for details on items and paint colors that you'd like to learn more about. They will have that information to pass on to you and usually have a list handy with all that info! Search online for model homes in your area. Builders will have them listed on their websites and you can often see pictures and build plans right on the website too! For example do a Google search of 'Dallas model homes', search by your neighborhood and see

what appears. Keep a list of the model homes you want to visit, and head out on the weekend with your cellphone to snap some pics for your project plan. Jot down details in the 'notes' on your phone to refer to later. Keep a list of the model homes you loved, their location and what you loved about it so that you can visit the model home again if necessary.

[Houzz](#)

Do you know about [Houzz](#)? It's a website that's full of gorgeous design and décor inspiration, room photos and items to shop for your project.

You can [create an account on Houzz.com](#) and create 'idea books' for each of your projects. Search for room inspiration photos, products and save the ones that you love to your idea book.

Magazines & Brand Catalogues

I love going through magazines and catalogues for design and décor inspiration! I always love to look at the room colors, shelving / art ideas and ways they've set the room up. You can cut the magazine and catalogue photos out and keep them in a binder or take a screenshot of it and save it on your phone's camera roll, then create an album on your phone's camera roll to save them to so they are in one place.

Brand Websites

Brand websites often have a section where they showcase rooms decorated with their products. Wayfair has a great one [here](#) and so does Home Depot [here](#) .

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Set a Budget

Make sure you set a budget! Don't skip this part. A budget will give you boundaries on what to spend, set your priorities and keep your marriage happy!

Budget Worksheet:

- Print out the Budget Worksheet at the end of this workbook and use it to set your total budget and itemized budget amounts.
- Begin with your total budget. This is the maximum that you can spend on your home project. Include a buffer of 10% of your total budget for unforeseen costs. If you discover a broken pipe, realize the subfloor under the tile is damaged or find mold you'll have to make those repairs and fit them in your budget. Setting aside that 10% allows you room to take care of those things without affecting your overall project plan. When you see your project going over your budget amount you'll have to eliminate some things or find cheaper alternatives.
- Itemize your project and enter each item budget amount in the worksheet. Determine the portion of the total budget that you are willing to spend on each part of the project. All the project section amounts should equal the total budget amount. This amount will guide you when you make your purchases.
- Include the actual costs of the materials you've bought to complete the DIY project or the cost to hire that portion to a professional.
- Budget Tip! When buying materials ask for sales, discounts, free delivery, tax free events and free installation to help you save money!
- Shop Habitat for Humanity ReStore, online buy and sell sites like Craigslist, discount centers and government surplus companies for furniture, fixtures and unused building materials.
- If you are remodelling you can possibly sell things to factor into your budget! When we remodelled our kitchen we sold the kitchen countertops, sink, faucet, and cabinet doors. People bought them for apartment rental properties and cottages! We put all the money we collected from those sales back into our kitchen remodel.

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Create a Materials List

Creating a materials list and gathering all of your materials will save you time and your sanity. There is nothing worse than being in the middle of a step and having to stop because you ran out of material...but the store is closed!

Materials List:

- Print out the materials list at the end of this workbook.
- Fill it out item by item.
- This list will help you keep aligned with your budget.
- For tile and hardwood buy 10% extra in case some pieces are damaged in the box. It's always good to keep some spare in case of damage down the road and a piece has to be replaced....such as one cracked tile.
- Always get samples of your materials if you can and keep them in a tote bag that you take to every store you visit to purchase other supplies. You'll want to refer to the color and pattern of your samples to match with others.
- If you aren't sure a size or color of a material will work in your project, buy samples of materials to trial at home (such as one box of floor tile). Keep the receipt and return to the store later if it doesn't work for your project.
- Remember to factor in the cost of delivery and the cost of installation. These can be big fees so be aware of them! Always ask if you can get a discount on the installation and delivery fees and ask if they offer free delivery or installation. The business may be running a special that month where they will offer these types of discounts. Negotiate, negotiate, negotiate!

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Contacts and References

Having a list of contacts and references will save you time, lessen stress and keep your project on track.

Contacts and References List

- Print out this list at the end of the workbook.
- Record the names and contact information of the designer, contractor and tradespeople that are working on your project.
- Also record the names of sales associates that you've spoken to. If they've offered you a discount having their name recorded is especially important.
- Also record any DIY tutorial links that you will use for the project.
- You can also save DIY tutorial links on your secret Pinterest board or in a google spreadsheet. Create a spreadsheet that looks like the Contacts and References List, with similar columns and add your information in each row.

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Create a Project Timeline

Creating a timeline with a start date and end date will ensure that you actually finish the project! It will also keep your project on track and make sure each step is followed in the correct order. Creating a timeline will also prioritize the project and get you going on it.

To Do List

- Print out the to do list at the bottom of this workbook and enter all of your to do tasks and the dates to begin and finish them with a brief description. Add numbers in the first column and use the second column for the rest of the information. Include a time estimate for each step. Print off as many to do lists as you need.

- Start by entering the major tasks of your project then break down each task into smaller parts. This helps you from missing steps. For example if you are replacing your carpeting it will be broken down into smaller tasks as follows: remove old carpeting, dispose the carpeting, install new carpeting. Make sure to include shopping time as well as the actual work time. If you are working with professionals you'll have to factor in their schedule and timelines as well. Try and have as much prepared during the week to knock out the project on weekends when you have bigger blocks of time free.

Project Timeframe Calendar

- Print out the Timeframe calendar below and add the start date, finish date for the entire project and the begin and finish dates for each task on your to do list. Print out as many calendars as your project requires.



Summary

Have fun working on your project! Good project planning is the key to making your home projects come to life, have successful outcomes and be enjoyable!

To help you source your materials, furniture and décor I've added a free shopping guide and shopping sources list at the end of this workbook! It contains all the places I shop for my design clients and myself! Knowing great sources to buy your furniture and decor is such a time saver, especially when they are delivered right to your door! *Tip: Be sure to measure, measure, measure before ordering items to make sure they'll fit your home! Measure your doorways too to avoid costly returns!*

I hope you enjoy this DIY Home Planner & Workbook! Good luck on all of your home renovation and décor projects!

Project Overview

Project _____

Project Name (Living room, Bedroom)	
Project Location (Main floor, Second floor, Basement ect.)	
Room Function	
Room Feeling	
Project Overview / Goals	
Project Start:	
Project Finish:	

Keep / Replace

Project _____

Keep	Replace

Budget Worksheet

Project _____

Item	Budget	Cost
Total		

Materials List

Project _____

Product	Quantity	Cost	Location / Phone Number	Notes

Contacts

Project _____

Contact Name	Company	Phone Number	Notes

Timeframe

Project _____ Month _____

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wed	Thursday	Friday	Saturday

To-Do List

Project _____

Date _____ Goals _____

Item #	To Do

Item #	To Do

Shopping Guide

Here's my list of fabulous online stores where you can shop for your home project furniture, lighting, rugs and decor! These are all online sources that I use for my home renovations and décor projects and use for my design clients. Shopping online and having items shipped right to your door is so much more convenient & time saving than searching store to store!

Materials (tile, carpet, hardware and more)

- [Home Depot](#)
- [Build.com](#)
- [Houzz](#)
- [Etsy](#)
- [Amazon](#)
- [Houzz](#)

Home Décor/ Furniture

- [Walmart](#)
- [Target](#)
- [Amazon](#)
- [Home Depot](#)
- [Serena And Lily](#)
- [Pottery Barn](#)
- [World Market](#)
- [Overstock](#)
- [Nordstrom](#)
- [Wayfair](#)
- [Joss and Main](#)
- [All Modern](#)
- [One Kings Lane](#)
- [PBdorm](#)
- [PBteen](#)

- [Pottery Barn kids](#)
- [Pottery Barn Baby](#)
- [PB Apartment](#)
- [Williams Sonoma](#)
- [West Elm](#)
- [McGee & Co.](#)
- [CB2](#)
- [Crate and Barrel](#)
- [Anthropologie](#)
- [H & M Home](#)
- [Etsy](#)
- [Houzz](#)

Lighting

- [1800Lighting](#)
- [Build.com lighting](#)
- [Overstock](#)
- [Wayfair](#)
- [Amazon](#)

Art

- [Minted](#)
- [Etsy](#)
- [Pottery Barn](#)
- [Wayfair](#)

Fabric

- [Minted](#)
- [Etsy](#)
- [Fabric.com](#)
- [Online Fabric Store](#)
- [Joann](#)
- [Hobby Lobby](#)