



reno rescue

Unsure of what to expect from an impending renovation? We check in with the experts from Ideal Design Interior to answer your most-asked renovation questions

Text **Cherell Soon** Images courtesy of **Ideal Design Interior**



With a resale flat unit, what preparation work is required from the homeowners to ensure that the home is ready for the renovation process?

A The most important thing to ensure of a smooth start to the renovation is to make sure that water and electricity are still running in the flat.

If there is bulky furniture left behind by the previous homeowner in the flat, is it the responsibility of the current homeowners to

remove it or does it lie with the interior designer or contractor?

A It is the responsibility of the previous homeowner to remove the furniture when the house is handed over. Only built-in structures such as cabinets and lighting should be left behind. The unwanted furniture can be donated to volunteer organisations as they can arrange to pick up the furniture.

How often should homeowners visit the renovation site?

A To avoid disrupting the renovation process as well as for the safety of the homeowner, it is best to visit the work site only on weekends.

What are some things homeowners should look out for when visiting the renovation site?

A During such site visits, homeowners should look out for the progress of the renovation project and also the final design of the work.

Are there any alternatives to re-flooring a home?

A There are multiple alternatives available in the market, depending on the state of the existing flooring. Professional cleaners can carry out cleaning on homogenous



tiles; marble and natural stone floors can be polished; wood floors can be varnished to look brand new. Lastly, there are many types of lamination available to overlay the floors to change the look of the space. Homeowners should explore the possibilities with the designer before finalising a decision.

Is it necessary for the interior designer to be there at all times during the visit?

A Yes, it is most ideal to have designers at site during visits. This is because the designer will be able to provide professional advice, project status updates and progress. Such meetings are useful to ensure clear communication and understanding between parties.



Is hacking away the walls the best solution to improve the flow of space in a small home or are there other solutions?

A Hacking walls can open up space, but there are some walls that cannot be taken away as these are part of the building's infrastructure. If the homeowners request to improve the flow through the house, designers can use several ways such as well-placed mirrors or using glass or carpentry work to adjust the flow according to the homeowner's preferences.



What types of small-scale renovations would you suggest to maximise space in a small home?

A There are several ways to maximise space in a small area. A good designer will be able to plan and utilise the space in the most effective way to suit the lifestyle of the homeowner. Designers leverage on new space-saving solutions such as customised carpentry and color choices to create an ideal area for the modern homeowner.

Is it possible for a homeowner of a HDB flat unit or condominium unit to request to knock away all the walls in their home?

A There are weight-bearing structures such as beams or pillars that cannot be removed as this will affect the structural safety of the entire building. The other non weight-bearing structures such as walls can be removed upon the Housing Board Development's (HDB) approval, although there are other considerations such as water and sewage pipes as well.

What are some budget-friendly solutions or materials one can utilise to save on costs during the renovation?

A Based on the homeowner's needs

and desired outcome of their home, an experienced designer will be able to advise the homeowner on alternatives in terms of material selection or renovation solutions to achieve an ideal outcome. Designers should be able to work within the given budget of the homeowner and most importantly, ensure the quality of the renovation work to avoid long-term maintenance costs.

If a homeowner chooses to revamp their entire existing home, what are some ways to go ahead with the renovation without having them move out and disturbing too much of their daily activities?

A For the health and safety of the homeowners, staying in the house during



renovation is not encouraged when the entire home is undergoing remodelling work. It is possible, if you choose to renovate selected parts of the home.

Phases such as hacking, drilling, tiling and even cleaning will result in extensive loud noises, dust particles and chemicals which are harmful to the homeowners. In addition, most of the usual facilities such as the toilet and kitchen will not be available and might even be hazardous for use by both the homeowner and renovation crew. The extra consideration to the homeowners required of the renovation crew might delay the progress of the renovation.

what renovation solutions would you suggest for making it more visually appealing?

A To deal with those problems, one possible solution that homeowners can look into includes creating a feature wall that can draw attention away from the space. This places emphasis on the wall instead.

If there is sufficient space, the use of clever carpentry work can convert spots into useful hidden storage areas, transforming it into an appealing and practical space for the homeowner.

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For odd-shaped spaces with awkward corners,