

# 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 color 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