



Modernize.com Identifies Best and Worst States for Home Renovation Projects

August 25, 2020

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Leading homeowner sentiment report reveals why projects in some states fair better than others at meeting project expectations

FOSTER CITY, California, Aug. 25, 2020 - Home improvement and renovation projects can be challenging endeavors. According to [Modernize.com](#)'s latest 2020 [homeowner survey](#), 27% of homeowners feel stressed ahead of their projects. Depending upon where you live, that stress might be even greater; a recent survey finds some states where projects tend to stay on track, while similar projects in other states run into issues with expectations and timelines.

Best and worst states for home improvements

According to a recent survey of 700 homeowners throughout the U.S., projects in certain states stay well within a home improvement budget, and finish on time— or even early. States where residents benefit from this positive trend in home services include:

1. Virginia
2. New Jersey
3. Missouri
4. Illinois
5. Colorado

In other states, projects are more often to be delayed or have additional, unforeseen expenses which increased budget. States tied at the bottom of our rankings include:

50. Arkansas
50. North Dakota
49. Hawaii
49. Maine
49. New Hampshire
49. Rhode Island

Sometimes, homeowners might see a trade-off in expectations on their project. For instance, New Jersey has some of the longest project delays; however, that can be countered by the fact that it is also one of the best states for being at or under budget on projects. The same can be said for some other states, including Montana, Virginia, and Colorado.

“Home improvement projects can be daunting for homeowners, especially large-scale, once-in-a-lifetime projects such as roof replacement,” explains Gregg Hicks, vice president of Modernize.com. “Project timelines can shift due to weather, material availability and unforeseen circumstances. But no matter where you live, to help set your project up for success, it’s essential to find the right professional for your project. An ideal contractor will be transparent about the expected timeline and costs for your home improvement project. This creates a smoother, less stressful project experience.”

The good news is that in most cases, homeowners are pleased with their results. More than 57% of our survey respondents reported their job was completed on time, while over 62% said the cost was as expected.

Making the most of your home improvement budget

To help ensure that your costs don't go over what you can afford, add an extra 20% to the cost estimate to cover any surprise expenses that come up during your home improvements.

Another way to ensure the best outcome for your project is by choosing the right contractor. Consider these tips:

- **Meet with multiple contractors.** Modernize.com makes this effortless for homeowners by pairing homeowners with local contractors, who will then work to earn your business.
- **Ask contractors for a list of references and look at online reviews.** A contractor’s reputation is built by satisfied homeowners who are more than happy to share their experiences with others.
- **Carefully compare quotes.** Ask the contractor to explain anything that seems odd. Turn to Modernize.com for checklists, [calculators](#), and [resources](#) to plan and prepare for your project.
- **Consider the off-season.** Business tends to slow during the winter or summer, depending upon the trade. Projects could be less costly during this time, and the contractor might be able to provide a more accurate time estimate. You may also take advantage of a seasonal promotion.
- **Get any quote changes in writing.** Any changes in pricing or the timeline should be shared in a document that makes the new arrangements clear.

Unexpected delays can happen. Projects can go over budget. Things can go wrong. The key to a good outcome is clear communication between homeowners and contractors. Turn to Modernize.com to support you through the project, from start to finish.

Hicks is available to elaborate on ways to ensure success when working with home improvement professionals.

About Modernize.com

For more than 15 years, Modernize.com has been a leader in the home improvement and services industry, connecting homeowners with contractors and other home services professionals. Modernize.com operates in more than 15 high-value, high-consideration home segments, including new and replacement windows, solar installation, roofing, heating and air conditioning, siding, bathrooms and kitchens, new and replacement gutters, home security, and others. The business brings a network of more than 1,000 contractors and professionals across all segments, offering broad geographical coverage and choice for homeowners.

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