

10 TIPS FOR A SUCCESSFUL REMODEL

Whether you're prepping for a sale or renovating the home you just bought, these tips can ensure you come out the other side sane and happy with the result.

1. DON'T OVER-IMPROVE. Ask a local Realtor for listings of comparable homes so you can determine if it makes sense to invest as much as you plan. This is especially important if you expect to sell in the near future.

2. SET A REALISTIC BUDGET. Include a cushion for unforeseen expenses.

3. HIRE GOOD HELP. Interview several contractors for each part of the job and look for workers with at least three years' experience and good reviews. Also, check references and ask to visit their current work sites to make sure they're safe and well organized.

4. INSIST ON A DETAILED CONTRACT AND TIMELINE.

5. PREPARE FOR NOISE, DUST, DELAYS AND INCONVENIENCE.

6. SAFEGUARD CHILDREN AND PETS. Harmful chemicals, power tools and more will be on site.

10. CONDUCT A CAREFUL INSPECTION BEFORE FINAL PAYMENT.

9. COMMUNICATE FREQUENTLY WITH YOUR CONTRACTOR. This is especially important if you're not satisfied. It's better to get problems resolved during construction than trying to get them fixed later.

8. PACK VALUABLES AND COVER FURNITURE IN ADJACENT ROOMS.

7. PHOTOGRAPH EVERY ROOM. That creates a record if things go missing.

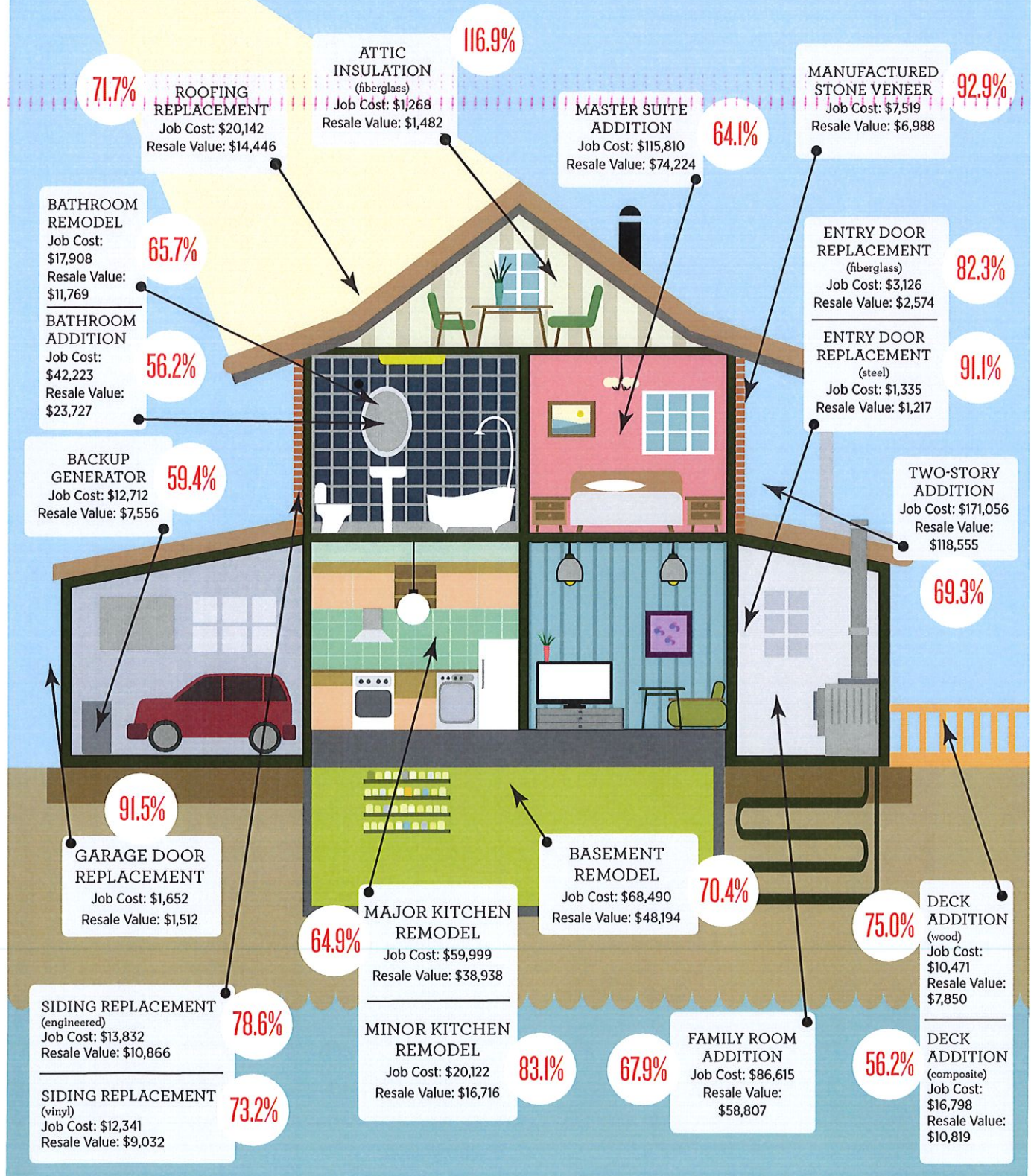


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Sources: Angie's List, US News & World Report, Better Homes and Gardens, homeadvisor.com

Remodeling Projects with the Greatest Return

Which remodeling projects will pay the greatest return when a home is sold? Remodeling Magazine asked real estate professionals, and here are their estimates for Florida and the southeastern United States. For the return on investment in eight specific Florida cities, go to www.remodeling.hw.net/cost-vs-value/2016/south-atlantic.



Source: Remodeling Magazine, 2016 Cost vs Value Report, Mid-Range Projects