

Selecting The Right Products and Materials for Your Home



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When it comes to selecting products for your home, there are many factors to consider. If you choose top-of-the-line products, be prepared to pay top-of-the-line prices. Some influences on the cost of new fixtures, cabinetry, countertops and flooring include updated technology and types of finishes. The fancier the finish, the higher the price. Keep in mind that cost does not always reflect quality. The most important thing is to shop around and ask advice from the experts. Most manufacturers have toll free numbers that are set up to answer any questions you may have on their products. Use this service to your advantage. It's also worth your while to talk to the manufacturer about expected life of the product or its efficiency.

When renovating, it's a good idea to weigh your options when selecting materials. If you're fixing up a house that you plan on selling soon, you may want to install less-expensive

materials. If you're planning on living in your home for quite some time, you might be more satisfied in the long run with better quality materials that will give you greater satisfaction and more reliability.

And as difficult as it may be, try not to make any impulsive choices based on style or color. I'm as guilty as anyone for making bad purchases in the past and have definitely learned the hard way. Color and style are obvious factors that will attract most of us to a product, but it's important to determine the quality so that it performs well and will last longer.

Beautiful handmade products are now on the market and can really enhance your home, making it truly unique. It is important to be cautious when buying these types of products especially when they are going to be used continuously. If you're thinking of purchasing a handmade product such as an unglazed sink, there's a chance that it may not meet local codes. As a matter of fact, it might be worth your while to do your

homework on the building codes in your area before beginning any renovation. It could save you a few costly mistakes.

One assumption most of us make is that the products we buy automatically come with a warranty. That's not always the case (yet another lesson I've learned the hard way), so inquire about guarantees and service options. Ask about warranties offered by the manufacturer as well as those offered by the place of purchase. Some stores may even offer complete replacement of the unit if it turns out to be defective. That can definitely save you a bit of a headache down the line.

When shopping for products, make a list of your requirements. And make sure they're just your requirements, nothing more. Try not

to get swept away by all the bells and whistles that do absolutely nothing but eat up your budget. Choose the best products and materials for the way you live. If you rarely take the time for a bath, you wouldn't want to spend most of your budget on an expensive jet tub that will never get used. However, if you enjoy taking long, hot baths in one of those classic clawfoot tubs, you might want to invest in a cast iron tub as opposed to a more inexpensive fiberglass one. The cast iron tub will cost substantially more, but will definitely be worth the investment if you're a serious bather.

Quality and personal satisfaction are the two most important factors to consider when making any product selection. Remember your list of "must-haves" when it comes to choosing products or materials. Don't sacrifice your requirements just because you can't find the perfect product on your first shopping trip. It's worth the time and effort to shop around and learn about the products you put into your home.