

Tips For Refinishing A Basement Yourself



The right vapor barrier can help keep a finished basement floor dry and odor free.

(NAPSA)—Whether you're looking to add a home office, extra bathroom, more storage space or a second living room to your house, you might start by looking down. Refinishing your basement can be a simple and relatively inexpensive solution to get more out of your living space. Plus, you can do many basement renovation projects yourself. Try these tips:

Plan Ahead

Before you tackle any work, think about how you'll be using your finished basement. If you're going to have an entertainment center—complete with a flat-screen TV, DVD player, video games and music—be sure you have enough outlets to run your devices. Plan for plenty of overhead space if you are including a game room with a pool table, dartboard and minirefrigerator. If your basement will include a home office, you may need a wireless-Internet signal booster to maintain quick surfing speed.

Energy Smart

Basement windows are notorious for letting in plenty of outside air. One solution for cutting energy bills is sealing cracks and gaps with a silicone-based caulk. If splurging on replacement windows isn't in the budget, consider heavy window coverings to help

stop airflow. Additionally, put timers on basement lamps to be certain they're turned off when the room is not in use.

Stay Warm and Dry

Water is the No. 1 enemy of finished basements, so make sure to use a waterproofing product such as Platon, available through CertainTeed Corporation, to guard against the moisture that can seep through a home's concrete slab. The durable, easy-to-install dimpled membrane forms an impermeable moisture barrier and air gap, allowing the concrete to breathe while keeping the floor dry. A value-added bonus: Platon keeps the finished floor isolated from the cold, damp concrete, so it becomes room temperature, not slab temperature. This helps keep floors warmer in winter and odor- and condensation-free in summer.

Up To Code

Remember that basements are subject to the same building codes as the rest of a house. Depending on the size of the project, you might even need a building permit to begin work. Be certain to check with building officials before you begin renovations and, if required, bring in an expert to help with certain parts of your project. For more information, visit www.certain-teed.com.