

Nest Building

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SMALL RENOVATIONS – THE CHALLENGES November 18, 2009

I am in the midst of a bathroom renovation. I began with a distinct vision but soon learned the importance of compromise. I spent days racking up mileage driving back and forth between suppliers. I'd find a floor I liked in one place, but no countertop to accompany it ... so I'd choose different countertop and then have to return to the flooring shop, my pockets bulging with postage-stamp-sized product samples on which I was supposed to base all my decisions.

I went from blues and turquoises to tomato reds and emerald greens in just three days and learned that small jobs certainly present their own set of challenges.

Often, they take as much time and energy as larger undertakings and require the same diversity of trades people. It can be difficult to attract and coordinate contractors for piecemeal projects.

Sometimes getting the attention of sales staff is a struggle unless you're building an entire house. There's nothing worse than standing in a sea of carpet samples with the sales clerk behind the counter some 30 feet away yelling out suggestions while on the computer working for someone else.

Some products can only be purchased by the acre—or so it feels. I had to disregard many fabulous floor and countertop options because I'd be wasting more than I'd be using.

Several stores carry identical products but at different prices. I didn't want to traipse all over the countryside picking up pieces of my project, so I decided spending a bit extra on select items was worth it if I could purchase everything at once.

Finally it feels like it is all coming together: I have reliable suppliers, a 'jack-of-all-trades' contractor I trust and a new level of respect for my clients who renovate habitually and live to tell the tale.