

Before We Start – Prep Your Home Checklist

Provided by Hammer Brick & Home LLC — Home Care Library

1. The Week Before

Use this list about 5–7 days before your project begins.

- Confirm start date and approximate arrival time with your contractor.
- Check that any required approvals (building, HOA, permits) are ready.
- Arrange time off or remote work if you want to be home on the first day.
- Plan where children and pets will be during noisy or dusty phases.
- Clear a space for materials to be dropped off and stored.
- Decide where crew can place tools at the end of each day.

2. The Day Before

Take an hour to walk through each area that will be worked on.

- Empty cabinets, closets, and shelves in the work area (kitchen, bath, hallway, etc.).
- Remove artwork, mirrors, and wall decor nearby.
- Move small furniture out of the work zone; slide larger pieces towards the center of the room if needed.
- Cover remaining furniture with plastic or sheets if not already included in the scope.
- Remove window treatments close to cutting, sanding, or painting areas.
- Secure valuables, jewelry, and important documents in a separate room or locked drawer.
- Charge phones, laptops, and backup powerbanks in case outlets are temporarily unavailable.

3. Morning of the Project

- Make sure someone is available to greet the crew or provide clear access instructions.
- Walk through the scope one final time and mention any areas of special concern.
- Show where bathrooms and hand-washing areas are located.
- Clarify where crew can and cannot go (rooms, fridge access, basement, etc.).
- Confirm how you prefer to communicate during the day (text, call, photos).
- Ask what's planned for Day 1: demolition, prep, layout, deliveries, etc.

TIP: Take a quick set of “before” photos of each project area before the crew starts. These also make great before/after comparisons later.

4. Daily Routine During the Project

A light, predictable rhythm during the job keeps stress lower and the project smoother.

- Plan a short daily check-in with the contractor or lead worker (morning or end-of-day).
- Ask what is scheduled for tomorrow and if you need to move anything.
- Quickly sweep or vacuum any main family pathways as needed for comfort.
- Keep kids and pets out of work areas, especially when tools or ladders are set up.
- If something worries you, write it down and review it calmly during the daily check-in.

This guide is meant to make home improvement less stressful by helping you prepare your space before work begins.

Hammer Brick & Home LLC cannot guarantee that every possible situation is covered — always discuss special conditions or concerns directly with your contractor.