

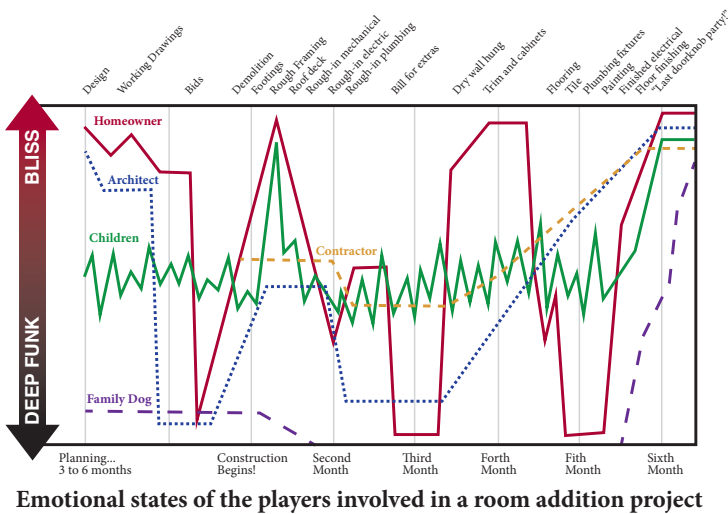
## How to Live Through a Remodel

You are about to embark on a journey into remodeling a major area of your home. The contractors are coming next week and you ask yourself, “How am I going to survive?”

Dan’s Funk Chart was created by Dan Bawden, CGR, GMB, CAPS, of Legal Eagle Contractors, Co in Houston. It shows a homeowner what to expect will occur emotionally for all parties involved: Homeowner, Architect or Designer, Children, Contractor and

the Family Pet! It is a fun way to view what you are about to get yourself into with a remodeling project.

### DAN’S FUNK CHART



There are several emotional stages of emotions you will experience during a remodel:

**Excitement** – at the start of taking a design on paper into reality

**Disappointment** – when you hit a few bumps in the road

**Discomfort** – you are almost through the remodeling process, but for some reason every little finishing detail seems to be taking forever

**Relief** – the last contractor gathers their things, the floor is swept and countertops are spotless

**Anxiety** – you may have remodeled the kitchen and it looks beautiful, but for some reason all surrounding rooms are a disaster

**Happiness** – it’s done! Everything is back to normal and the first guests are arriving to your “Last Doorknob Party”!

Ok, so you understand it’s emotional to renovate, remodel or upgrade a home. Now, here is how you survive:

**Plan ahead** – Know what you are going to be working without for long period of time. For example, if you are remodeling a kitchen, think about how you are going to wash, dry and store your dishes (protecting them from dust and dirt)

**Walk through the process** – Have a meeting with hired contractors, designers and family members so everyone knows what and when to expect it. Remodeling = knowing the unknown. A design process may be implemented but things can and will stray away from the plan. Keep an open mind for when these hurdles occur; they are better managed with patience and understanding rather than anger and frustration.



*Interior designers typically focus on the aesthetics of a room, while good contractors will make sure everything works. At 3W design, inc. we bridge the gap between these two goals to create beautifully functional spaces. Here are some of the benefits our clients have realized:*

**Expedited Projects.** We speak the language of our clients and our contractors, which means there is less room for miscommunication. We can also design the space to fulfill the needs of our clients while minimizing construction complications and delays.

**Budget Maximization.** We know the products and design strategies that give starter homes a bit of luxury and the details and extras that make “dream” spaces a reality.

**Effortless Results.** Choosing your materials - flooring, laminates, paints, cabinets, trim styles, hardware, appliances, bath fixtures and window treatments - can be a daunting task. Our design and materials expertise takes the guess work out of how the space will look when it all comes together.

**Storage** – moving all your personal items out of the area being remodeled can be tricky. You need to make sure they are completely out of the way, but at the same time, not taking over the same space you need to relax in. Also, contractors have

lots of extra “stuff” they will be bringing into your home. Protect yourself, children and pets from these unfamiliar items, such as, power saws, nailers, drills, etc. Offer the contractors a place to store their belongings: it could protect your family and reduce clutter within the work zone.

**Protect your household items** – cover everything in the adjoining areas. Dust happens. And, it happens a lot! Think about curtains, shades, area rugs, pictures and glassware. EVERYTHING will need to be cleaned once the remodel is done.

**Happy workers = Hard workers** – A word of appreciation, offer a beverage and a quick check in to make sure they always have what they need this goes along way.

Recreate the environment that is being remodeled – if you are remodeling a kitchen, create a make-shift kitchen with all your essentials. Move your refrigerator out of the demo area and close to where you are going to be “setting up shop”. Toaster ovens, microwaves and griddles go along way when you are without a stove. Make sure you use them in a safe place and protect the surface beneath the appliance. Utilize your grill...no pots and pans needed!

**Stay or Go** – Sometimes it may just be easier for your household members to leave during a remodel depending on how intense it may be. Financially, it will dig deeper into your pocket if you leave your home, but some may say it is worth it. Also, make sure locks and keys are managed appropriately. Leave someone in charge of securing your home that you trust.

**Talk to your Contractor** – Keep all discussions with the authorized contractor. Leave the workers free of questions because they are there to follow orders and construction specs. Establish a clear line of communication with one or two people onsite so you are not dealing with he said/she said.

**Meditate** – yoga helps!

As you begin a remodel, whether it’s two weeks or two months in length, the process is emotionally the same. Follow the above tips and hopefully your project will result in complete satisfaction with little frustration along the way ■