



Basements with Flair

Looking for space to put an exercise room, entertainment center, or playroom? Go underground! If your home has an unfinished basement, remodeling might be a great way to transform this commonly under-used space.

When considering a basement remodel, start by making a floor plan. Be sure to mark the location of your furnace, washer and dryer, and any other large appliances. Take notes on:

- access to the basement from upstairs and outside
- location of existing plumbing if you want an additional bathroom
- location of vertical support columns
- location of windows and doors
- floor/ceiling/wall materials.

Given their constant contact with the earth, basements are vulnerable to dampness, which makes basement remodeling a bit more complex than first meets the eye. We'll help you take appropriate measures to ensure a room free from moisture.

Most basements have low ceilings and few windows. But this doesn't have to limit you. There are many creative ways to make your basement light and airy. Talk to us about the variety of wall and ceiling lighting options available. We'll make sure to provide appropriate electrical lines and outlets.

Here are some tricks-of-the-trade for making your underground space first-class:

- Stay away from dark wood paneling and instead consider drywall painted in light tones to make the room brighter. Semi-gloss paint will gently reflect even more light into the room.
- Open up the visual space. Double doors--even glass double interior doors--take away the typical cubicle look. Or, how about a rounded archway or pass through area from one room into another?
- Check to see if existing windows can be enlarged. Or, consider installing a small-boxed window for a mini-garden to grow herbs or start plant seedlings.
- Built-in bookcases and entertainment units add richness and depth to a room. Light them with interior lights or from the top to cast light downwards.
- Disguise vertical support beams and horizontal ceiling pipes or floor joists by boxing them in. Or, you might decide to actually use pipes and beams as interesting accents by painting them with bold colors or subtle earth tones.

An unfinished basement is much like a diamond in the rough—unexplored splendor awaiting your discovery!