



The Should-Do's: Four Design and Finish Levels

	Basic	Standard	Designer	Custom
Front door	Metal Six-panel	Metal fan lite	Stock wood	Custom wood with glass
Side or back door	Slab (flat, no panel)	Six-panel	Full-lite, nine-lite	Custom wood with glass
Windows	Repair existing window	Aluminum	Vinyl	Wood
Siding	Repair (patch) siding	Vertical plywood siding (T1-11)	Hardiplank, possibly with some stone, brick, or stucco	Combination of several siding materials: Stone and stucco possibly with some Hardi, cedar, or metal
Texture	Spatter	Drag	Orange peel (remove any popcorn ceiling texture)	None or trowel
Kitchen cabinets	Stock white or oak	Stock oak (choice of stains)	Stock maple or cherry with a few glass doors	Custom species with a number of custom glass doors
Bathroom cabinets	Stock 24- or 30-inch vanity	Stock 30-inch vanity	Stock 36+-inch vanity with cultured marble top	Custom vanity cabinet with granite top
Interior doors	Slab (flat, no panel)	Six-panel	Special-order hollow core	Special-order solid core

	Basic	Standard	Designer	Custom
Baseboards	Repair or replace sections with existing type	< 3 inches high	> 4 inches high, paint grade	> 5-inches high, possibly stain-grade
Window trim	Sill and apron	Sill and apron	Sill, apron, and possibly window trim on first floor windows	All windows are completely cased and trimmed
Crown molding	No	No	Sparingly	Everywhere
Openings between rooms	Drywall	Drywall	Some cased openings in key places	Every opening is cased
Wall paint	Off-white	Off-white	A designer color	Color or faux finish
Ceiling paint	Same color as walls	Same color as walls	Shade of white	Designer choice
Accent paint	None	None	One or two walls	Several paint color changes for different rooms
Trim paint	Same color as walls	A shade of white	Usually a shade of white	Designer color or stained
Millwork paint (cabinets, mantle, etc.)	A shade of white	Same as trim paint	Usually an off-white	Designer color or stained

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Siding paint	Match existing paint to prevent multiple coats	Safe color	Designer color	Designer color
Exterior trim paint	Same paint as siding	Same paint as siding	Same paint as siding or a shade of white or a designer color	Designer color
Front door paint	A color that goes with the siding and trim	A color that goes with the siding and trim	Designer color or stained	Stained
Countertop	Inexpensive plastic laminate	Moderately priced plastic laminate	Designer laminate, Silestone, basic granite	Custom granite (beveled bull nose, honed)
Backsplash	4-inch plastic laminate strip	Plastic laminate or one row of tile	Ceramic or inexpensive quarry tile	Custom quarry tile, glass tile, handmade or hand-painted tile
Tub surrounds	Basic white 4 x 4's	Basic 4 x 4's	Subway or other tile	Quarry tile (mosaic pattern or other pattern)
Shower surrounds	Basic white 4 x 4's	Basic 4 x 4's	Subway or other tile	Quarry tile (mosaic pattern or other pattern)
Flooring for kitchen	Vinyl	Basic ceramic tile 12 inches x 12 inches	High-end ceramic tile or quarry tile	Slate, travertine, or hardwoods
Flooring for bathroom	Vinyl	Vinyl or basic ceramic tile 12 inches x 12 inches	High-end ceramic tile or quarry tile	Slate, travertine, or hardwoods

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Flooring for utility room	Vinyl	Vinyl or basic ceramic tile 12 inches x 12 inches	High-end ceramic tile or quarry tile	Travertine or similar
Flooring for front entryway	Vinyl	Basic ceramic tile 12 inches x 12 inches	High-end ceramic tile or quarry tile	Slate, travertine, or hardwoods
Kitchen sink	6-inch stainless	7-inch stainless	9-inch overmount or undermount stainless	Farmhouse or other custom sink
Kitchen faucet	Chrome basic	Includes sprayer	Sprayer pulls from faucet	Custom one-lever
Bathroom sink	Integrated plastic (imitation cultured marble)	Integrated plastic (imitation cultured marble)	Integrated cultured marble or porcelain drop-in	Undermount
Bathroom faucets	Two-handle basic	One- or two-handle basic	One-handle satin nickel	Custom (e.g., oil-rubbed bronze)
Surface mount lights	White globe (some pull string)	White mushroom-type	Satin nickel mushroom or similar (not too expensive)	Special order (e.g., oil-rubbed bronze with custom glass)
Special lighting	None	None	Some recessed lights in kitchen, breakfast, and family room; some pendants	Recessed lights throughout (usually low-voltage halogen), under-cabinet lights, pendant lights

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Ceiling fans	None	Cheap, white with light kit	Satin nickel with light kit	Special order with no light kit
Appliances	Hotpoint (usually white)	GE (usually white or black)	GE Profile (usually stainless)	GE Monogram or special (Viking, Sub Zero, etc.)
Carpet	Plush	Berber	Frieze	Wool
Doorknobs	Inexpensive brass	Inexpensive satin nickel look	Brushed nickel look	Distressed pewter or oil-rubbed bronze
Cabinet knobs and pulls	None	None	Brushed nickel	Special order (e.g., distressed pewter)
Towel bar	Budget metal	Chrome	Brushed nickel	Special order (e.g., oil-rubbed bronze)
Bathroom mirror	Cut and installed by a glass company	Cut and installed by a glass company	Framed (stock)	Special order (framed)
Landscaping	Cut grass	Cut grass, mulch gardens	Cut grass, install shrubs, plants, flowers, plant grass, mulch beds	Cut grass, install shrubs, plants, flowers, plant grass, mulch beds, install small trees, crushed granite, or stone walkways