

## HOW HARD COULD IT BE?

Whether you've purchased a fixer-upper or are tackling projects to get top dollar when you sell, "doing it yourself" can save money. But home improvement projects carry risks—some more than others. Consider these factors before you DIY.



### DON'T MAKE A SHOCKING DISCOVERY

Before you tackle any electrical job, you need to shut off power to the circuit you're working on. Otherwise, you risk getting a nasty shock or worse. Make sure you can access the breaker box and verify which switch controls which area of the house. If you can't safely work on the circuit or have any doubts at all, call a professional.



### TEST THE WATERS

Plumbing jobs can lead to leaks and flooding. A good first step is to test the water shutoff valve. Sinks and toilets usually have their own valves, but you may have to shut off water to the entire property to work on tubs, showers, and other fixtures. If your project doesn't turn out as planned, you may need to shut off the water and leave it off until you get assistance.



### KNOW YOUR LIMITS

You can find instructions for thousands of home improvement projects on the internet. But a YouTube video that shows how to build a deck doesn't make you a carpenter. Before you start any DIY project, be honest about your ability and have a backup plan if things don't go well.



Certain DIY projects can improve your home and save you money. When you have real estate needs, however, trust a professional: Work with a REALTOR®.