BATHROOM REMODEL CHECKLIST

Address: _____

Start date: _____

Plan, budget, choose, hire and finish: 35 steps.

1. Plan and budget

- ☐ Write down what isn't working: storage, the shower or tub, lighting, ventilation, or worn-out finishes.
- ☐ Decide whether to keep the toilet, shower and sink where they are. Moving them adds plumbing work.
- ☐ Decide between a tub and a shower. If this is the only tub in the house, think about resale before removing it.
- ☐ Price it for your bathroom and your state, then add a cushion for surprises.
- ☐ If the house was built before 1978, painted surfaces may contain lead: hire a firm that is EPA lead-safe certified.
- ☐ In a condo, check the rules for approvals, working hours and shutting off shared water.

2. Design and choices

- ☐ Measure the room, including the door swing, window, ceiling height and where the drains are.
- ☐ Choose the shower or tub, the shower door or curtain, and the valve and shower head.
- ☐ Choose a vanity that fits the room and the storage you need, and the sink, faucet and mirror.
- ☐ Choose tile for the floor, walls and shower, and ask which waterproofing system goes behind the shower tile.
- ☐ Plan a quiet exhaust fan sized for the room, and ask where it vents to.
- ☐ Plan the lighting, especially at the mirror, and outlets where you need them.
- ☐ Ask for wood blocking in the walls now, so grab bars can be added later without opening the walls.
- ☐ Decide on extras before the walls are closed: a heated floor, niches, a bench or a handheld shower.

3. Hire a contractor

- ☐ Get at least three written quotes for the same scope and the same finishes, so they can be compared line by line.
- ☐ Check each contractor's license with your state's licensing board, and ask for proof of liability insurance and workers' compensation.
- ☐ Ask for references from recent bathroom jobs, and look at photos of finished work.
- ☐ Read the contract before signing: the full scope, model numbers or allowances for anything not yet chosen, start and finish dates, the payment schedule, how changes are handled, and the warranty.
- ☐ Keep the deposit modest and check your state's rules; some states cap it.
- ☐ Confirm in writing who pulls the permits and books the inspections.

4. Before work starts

- ☐ Plan which bathroom you'll use, or where else, while this one is out of action.
- ☐ Empty the cabinets and the linen closet nearby.
- ☐ Agree working hours, where the crew parks, which bathroom they use and where the dumpster goes.
- ☐ Agree how the rest of the house is protected: dust barriers, and floor covering on the way in.
- ☐ Order the vanity, fixtures and tile early; special orders can take weeks.

5. While the work is going on

- ☐ Walk the job with the contractor regularly, and keep notes and photos.
- ☐ Ask to see the shower waterproofing, and any leak test, before the tile goes on.
- ☐ Put every change in writing, with its price, and sign it before the work is done.
- ☐ Pay by the schedule as each stage is finished, not ahead of it.
- ☐ Keep receipts, model numbers, paint colors and tile names together for later repairs.

6. Finishing up

- ☐ Do a final walk-through together and list everything that still needs fixing.
- ☐ Run the shower, tub and sink, flush the toilet, and check for leaks again after a few days.
- ☐ Make sure the permit passed its final inspection, and keep the paperwork.
- ☐ Collect warranties and manuals, and register anything that needs registering.
- ☐ Make the final payment once the punch list is done, as the contract says.

Notes