

The Wall Removal Planning Checklist

Four steps to open up a space safely, from Acadia Design Consultants

Before you plan

- 1 Check the basement for a beam or posts below the wall**
A continuing load path downstairs is a strong sign the wall is load bearing.
- 2 Note the direction of the floor joists above**
Walls running perpendicular to the joists are more likely to carry load.
- 3 Pull the original drawings if you have them**
They can confirm the structure without opening the wall.

Before demolition

- 1 Have a designer or engineer confirm the load in person**
Never rely on a video or a guess for a structural call.
- 2 Get a stamped beam drawing**
An engineer sizes the replacement beam and the posts that carry it.
- 3 Apply for a City of Toronto building permit**
Structural work is reviewed and inspected by the City.
- 4 Trace the plumbing, wiring, and ducts in the wall**
Plan where the services go before the saw comes out.

During the work

- 1 Confirm temporary shoring is in place**
The structure must be supported before the wall comes out.
- 2 Book the required inspections**
The City signs off the structural work at key stages.

Planning a renovation, addition, or suite in Toronto and the GTA? We can help.

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