

Renovation or Remodel? A Quick Decision Guide

Acadia Design Consultants - Ontario Homeowner Guide 2026

Is It a Renovation?

1 The layout stays the same

You are updating the space, not reshaping it.

2 No walls move

Structure and load paths are untouched.

3 Finishes and fixtures only

Paint, flooring, cabinets, counters, and fixtures on the existing footprint.

4 Often no permit

Cosmetic work usually skips a building permit in Ontario, but confirm locally.

Is It a Remodel?

1 The layout changes

Rooms change size, use, or position.

2 Walls move or come out

Any structural wall requires drawings and an engineer.

3 Services relocate

Moving plumbing or major electrical pushes you into remodel scope.

4 Permit and drawings required

Most remodels need a proper permit set; confirm with your building department.

Questions? Visit www.acadiadc.ca to get in touch.