

GREAT WAYS TO LIVEN UP YOUR BASEMENT

A basement is a great additional space for any home. When you purchase a house that has a basement, you have extra space that can be used in a variety of ways. If you have a basement that is currently being unused, it is time to figure out what you want to do to liven it up and make it usable space. Whether your basement is unfinished or just lacking a purpose, there are many ideas to choose from below to bring life to this area of your home.

CREATE SEVERAL SPACES

An excellent option for a basement redesign is to create several spaces out of one big room. If your basement is a big space, you can add walls to create different areas. Think of how your family would benefit from more than one area. If you have children, you could create a family room for adults to watch television with another place for the children to play in. Making several spaces can add value to the home as well as areas to enjoy.

MOVIE ROOM

Who doesn't love a night at the movies? Creating a movie room in your own home will allow you to enjoy a movie every night of the week. Make your basement a dark space with a large movie screen, with cushy seating for family movie night whenever you like!

ADDING A BEDROOM

A basement is also a great area to create bedroom space. As your family grows, you can section off your basement to be one, two even three bedrooms depending on the space you have in the home. A basement with ample square footage can easily be converted to bedrooms, providing a private space for every adult and child in the household. Just remember – any bedroom in a basement requires an egress window. If there is an existing window, but it doesn't meet egress code (i.e. – not large enough to escape in case of emergency) – or if there is no window – a new, larger window that meets egress code must be installed. This will most likely require cutting into the concrete foundation – something you certainly don't want to do yourself! (Always hire a professional for that type of work – and make sure that the contractor you hire has an engineered stamped drawing, pulls a permit for the work, and has it inspected by the city!)

LIGHTEN THE COLOR

If your basement seems dark and dreary, consider lightening up the space with colour. Choose a bright blue or creamy yellow to give the space a bright and cheerful feel.

EXERCISE/SPORTS SPACE

If you like to work out or enjoy sports, you can make your basement an exercise or sports space. Add a dart board, pool table, weight bench or cardio machine. Add whatever you like to stay fit or to have fun.



Curtis Breslaw, President of All Canadian Renovations Ltd.

FLOORING

Many basements have carpeting for flooring. Consider removing the carpet and installing vinyl plank for a unique look. A lot of people ask me about laminate flooring. I never recommend laminate flooring in a basement. Basements tend to be damp (even new ones!) and laminate flooring does not work well in damp environments, or in basements where the concrete floor is never a perfectly smooth, or a level surface (don't worry – it's not supposed to be level – the floor should always run towards the floor drain in case of a flood). Vinyl flooring, whether it's vinyl plank, vinyl tile, or even sheet vinyl, tends to be more forgiving to the "peaks and valleys" that are commonly found in concrete basement floors. Vinyl is also a lot more water resistant, and easier to clean up should there ever be any kind of leak in your basement. New flooring will transform the space and can give you a fresh new exciting look!

SIMPLE REDESIGN

Sometimes all it takes to liven up a space is to redesign it. You may be tired of looking at the same paint color, window treatments, furnishings and décor. When you have had enough of your design, perhaps it's time to rely on someone else. An interior designer can help you to enjoy a new look in the basement of your home. At ACR Ltd., you will find basement renovation experts on hand to help you make your home look its very best! If you're looking for a top home renovation company to complete your basement renovation – call us today at 204.779.6900 or contact us through our website (www.acrltd.ca)

Got a question for us? Send your renovations questions, DIY questions, or general contractor questions to us at: info@acrltd.ca – your question may even be featured in our next column right here!

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