

Jerry Pattenaude

Leo F Johns Contractor Inc.



MEET A REMODELER

Leo F Johns Contractor Inc. is a full service design/build home remodeling company. Founded in 1976, the company has a reputation for quality projects that are completed on time and within budget. Owner Jerry Pattenaude is the past chairman of TBA's Remodelers Council and his company has received numerous Remodeling Excellence and Stanley Awards for its work.

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Area of expertise in remodeling:

We specialize in kitchens, baths, whole house renovations and additions and historical restoration. I also hold a Certified Aging in Place Specialist (CAPS) designation, which certifies my expertise in home modifications specifically for maturing adults, the fastest growing segment of the residential remodeling industry.

What advice would you give to homeowners looking to remodel?

Do your homework. Thoroughly check out your contractor's credentials and several references. Personally, I don't like putting money down on something I have not seen, so I do not ask for down payments. Also, if a building permit is required, ensure the contractor procures it, not you. This will allow you some remedies should a problem arise later. Trade associations are a good place to start when looking for a reputable contractor.

What has been the most challenging project you've tackled?

When you have been in business as long as we have, you encounter quite a few challenging projects. Historical restoration is fun but it can be quite a challenge. I would have to say that an addition we did in Norfolk presented the best challenge. We had to temporarily shore up a couple of three-story, double brick walls, along with a full masonry fireplace that was still functioning. We then removed the first floor portion of the brick walls in order to install two massive steel beams with columns. This opened up the house to the addition. All this without cracking the tile in the bath above! After this job was complete, the owners told me that the other contractors that had looked at the project said it couldn't be done. I love a challenge.