



## 5 Expert Tips for Opening up Spaces in Your Home

Open plan living is all the rage these days, and it's easy to see why. In addition to being an effective and trendy way to maximize your living areas, large open spaces provide endless flexibility, improve the flow of light in your home, and may even boost the value of your property.

That being said, simply knocking down walls may not always yield optimal results. As with other types of home remodeling, you should carefully plan your new and expanded space to make sure it meets your needs and enhances the appeal and layout of your home.

To help you get the most out of your remodel, we have prepared a list of 5 time-tested tips on how to effectively open up spaces in your home.



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### Tip #1: Create framed openings

Everyone knows you can turn two smaller rooms into a single larger one by removing the wall between them. But did you know that a framed opening can open up both rooms while also keeping them separate and visually distinct from one another?

Framed openings are a great way to add spaciousness to your home without having to actually merge two separate areas or deal with the hassle of knocking down a load-bearing wall. What's more, custom frames offer an excellent opportunity to add a personal touch to your interior decor.

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## Tip #2: Downsize

A great way to create a sense of roominess in a small area is to leave some empty space between the walls and the sides of your furniture. Pick compact, efficient furniture that doesn't eat up too much space, and make sure to choose designs that are lower to the ground. This will make the walls seem larger and make the space feel more roomy.

Interestingly enough, you can use the opposite approach when furnishing a bedroom, as placing a large queen bed between two walls is a great way to create a cozy sleeping cave.



## Tip #3: Keep your open plan flexible

Just because you've chosen an open plan layout, doesn't mean you can't incorporate methods for closing off spaces when needed. Adding sliding, bifold, or pocket doors that are "hidden" inside walls while not in use is a great way to keep your open plan flexible. Glazed doors and walls are an excellent option for when you want to keep zones separate and also allow light to freely move through your home.

### Gallery



## Tip #4: Load-bearing walls

A load-bearing wall is a wall that doesn't just separate two rooms, but also conducts the weight of the elements above to the foundation below. If a load-bearing wall is damaged or removed, the elements it was holding up may collapse.

Always double-check if the wall you're planning to remove is load-bearing. If it is, your remodelers will likely need to install a steel beam - also known as an RSJ - that will carry the weight of the missing wall. Luckily, there are many ways in which this beam can be hidden or even incorporated into your new open plan layout. For instance, it can indicate a change in use from an area to area in a split-level layout.

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## Tip #5: Split-level layouts

Incorporating a split-level layout is a great way to create distinct zones within a large, open space. For instance, living spaces that are separated from the dining area by two or three short steps clearly stand out as separate areas, without being completely shut off.

A more subtle way to create a split-level layout is via varying ceiling levels. For example, keeping the ceiling in the dining room slightly lower fosters a sense of intimacy, while using a higher ceiling in the kitchen makes your cooking area feel more functional.

### Tours

## Want to create the ideal open plan layout at your home? Elite Remodeling can help

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We pride ourselves on the quality of our work and will happily take you on an exclusive private tour of one of our past clients' homes. Taking part in this tour will not only give you an opportunity to see our workmanship first-hand, but also provide you with \$500 credit toward a future Elite Remodeling Services Agreement!

Call (972) 334-9800 and book your on-site consultation today. Our designers will evaluate your existing space and have a chat with you to learn about your wishes and requirements. Let our team of certified experts boost the aesthetics, functionality, and resale value of your property by providing it with a gorgeous open plan layout that will stand the test of time.



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