



# “4 Recession” Proof Remodel Trends

December 2012



Managing Broker  
**AB, ABR, ASR, CLHMS,  
CRS, CNE, GRI, EcoBroker,  
e-PRO, TRC**

Business: 360-692-6102  
Seattle: 206-282-5340  
Cell: 360-620-2690  
mollyells@windermere.com  
www.mollyells.com



Windermere Real Estate/West Sound, Inc.  
9939 Mickelberry Rd NW - Silverdale, WA 98383

*If you are already working with an agent, this is not meant as a solicitation for that business.*

After living through a housing slump the likes of which many of never seen before, many home owners are considering remodeling rather than moving. And those who are remodeling are interested in making what I call “recession-proof” remodels – remodels which will stand the test of time and yield long-term value.

Here are four types of remodels that I feel are recession-proof:

### **Well-designed kitchens.**

Unfortunately, kitchens can’t yet to do the cooking for you, but kitchens have come a long way, baby! Today’s innovations allow you to spend less time in the kitchen ... and that means more time with family and friends. In terms of time-saving, convection ovens and induction cook tops both reduce cooking times. Better quality oven hoods keep kitchens cleaner, and a wide array of countertop options allow you to spend less time cleaning. There’s a movement away from a matched “suite” of appliances, with more homeowners selecting each appliance to best meet their needs. Storage continues to be important, and pantries are rising in popularity. On the wane? Ornatly styled cabinetry and granite countertops. These are trends whose time may have passed. Finally, many homeowners are interested in creating kitchens that have the visual appearance of an extension of the living space.

**The suite life.** It’s not just in the master bedroom that suites are gaining in popularity. While master suites continues to be sought-after

(and a smart remodel choice), suites in other areas of the home are gaining in popularity. We’re seeing a resurgence of so-called “mother-in-law” suites, which are often located in a daylight basement or above a garage, or added as part of an addition. Baby boomers – our “sandwich” generation are rapidly becoming caretakers for their aging parents, and want to be offer a suite arrangement so that all family members have privacy. In addition, grown children who are returning home often appreciate a similar arrangement.

**The ultimate backyard haven.** In some parts of the country – primarily those with good weather year-round, there’s always been some level of emphasis on outdoor entertaining. But today, across the country, more and more homeowners are creating great entertaining spaces. These could include pools, gazebos, built-in seating, outdoor kitchens, new fencing, updated landscaping, and more. With more and more families participating in “staycations”, a backyard haven just make sense!

**Improving energy efficiency.** New windows, doors, lighting, and insulation can add to the value of your home – as well as your enjoyment while living there. There have been substantial innovations in all of these categories in recent years.

Of course, within each of the categories lies the possibility of endless choices, depending on your budget, and your personal style. If you’re looking for more information on today’s remodel trends, just give me a call at 360-620-2690 or send an email to [mollyells@windermere.com](mailto:mollyells@windermere.com). I’ll be happy to provide information on what’s trending in your market!

