



## INTEGRITY CONTRACTING & REMODELING, LLC

### **The Horror! Stop Avoiding Your Basement and Create a Space You'll Love**

Does your basement look like the perfect set for a horror movie — dank, damp floors, cold cinderblock walls and musty smells reminiscent of Aunt Martha's attic? Or perhaps it's been your dump-all room for so many years that the back half is an explosion of the 1980s. If this sounds familiar, it's time for your basement to star in a new film!

#### **Why Should You Finish Your Basement?**

A finished basement is a great investment and can add value to your home and your life:

- You'll add usable space to your home.
- You can expand your living space without having to move or build a full addition.
- You'll increase your home's value.

You'll add climate-controlled storage space.

#### **What Are Some Popular Uses for Finished Basements?**

While the uses vary with each person or family, some common uses for finished basements include:

- Children's playrooms
- Bars/areas for entertaining
- Home theater or gaming areas
- Storage
- Exercise rooms
- A second family room
- Smaller rooms like laundry rooms, a bedroom or extra bath
- Man caves
- Music rooms
- Apartments for family members

#### **How Do I Get Started?**

Before you call your contractor, have your basement's new purpose in mind. You may even want to sketch out some general ideas about the layout of the space if you already have ideas. Set up your meeting with several contractors, and prepare a list of questions to ask. Be sure to gather several bids to compare pricing and ideas before making your selection.

#### **What Questions Should I Ask Potential Contractors?**

Get ready for your meetings with contractors by arming yourself with a list of questions. Contractors should come tour the space, discuss options with you and, shortly thereafter, provide you with a written estimate. Here are some questions to ask:

- Are you licensed and insured?
- Can you provide me with references from other customers who had basements finished?
- If you see moisture issues, how will you combat those problems?
- What options do you see to ensure adequate lighting in the space?
- What flooring and ceiling options do you suggest?

- How long do you think the project will take to complete?
- Will we need to relocate load bearing walls and have an engineer involved?
- Will you be handling all permits? (This is a must!)
- What will your work schedule be while working in my home?
- What is your payment schedule?

These questions give you a starting point to have a thorough discussion. As you move through the process, never hesitate to ask other questions as you have them. We will help educate you, as well as deliver you the space you dreamed of.

As you gather your estimates, we'd love to talk to you! We have more than 25 years of experience in remodeling and construction. Call Integrity Contracting and Remodeling today at 540-840-7808.