
Renovation Webinar

Dean Parker & Troy Harris (Active Property Network)

How long did your first renovation take and what did you learn?

Troy Harris: Okay. I've got a question here from Michael. How long did your first renovation take and what did you learn from it?

Dean Parker: Right. Well, our first one, it was...We bought that not too long after the little...well, it was probably about six months after little brown, stinky unit and it was the first renovation we'd done, obviously. And it took us a ridiculous 18 months and we pretty much did everything wrong and we learned a heap along the way.

Some of the main things were that we'll never do again or I highly recommend not to do again to *not to renovate a home while living in* it because you're just continually cleaning up after yourself. By the time you get the paintbrushes out to get something done and to cover everything up and actually paint a room, for example, it was almost time to put them away again. And by the time you clean up the mess again, it was just a nightmare. So I mean, from that point of view, that was one of the big learning things.

The other one was to do a *task at a time* and not a room at a time. We found that when we were living there and doing it slowly while we were still working, we thought if we do a room at a time, that we'd be able to just gradually get the thing done and gradual was exactly what it was because it just...by the time you, I guess, for example, we'd go in and we'd sand down a room and were ready for paint preparation and you'd find that you had that plaster dust just throughout the whole house in every tiny, little crevice. And we were spending as much time preparing and cleaning up after ourselves as we were actually doing anything. So it just, I guess, it was just getting frustrating and that's where the stress and everything else came into it.

But yeah, I guess the good thing was it was...we just learned so much on the way. So it was good but, as I said, it did take a massive amount of time.