

Renovating a Philadelphia Row House

TOP 6 TIPS FOR REMODELING OLDER HOMES

Combining a home's historical character while increasing energy efficiency and livability is the top concern for Philadelphia row house owners. These are the top considerations to keep in mind.

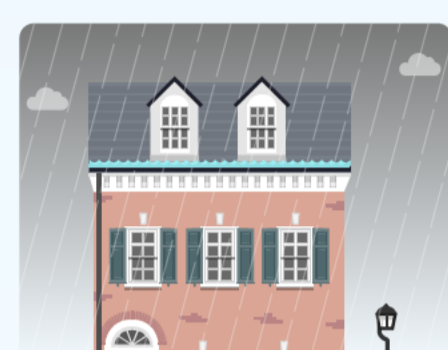
State: Pennsylvania	Average Home Age: 93 Years
Population: 1.579 million	Cost to renovate: \$80k - \$400k
Area: 141.7 sq. mi	Top Project: Kitchen remodels



Improving Insulation

Most older homes lack sufficient insulation

Tip: Adding fiberglass batt or blown-in insulation to an attic rather than the entire home is a cost effective way to conserve energy



Roof and Downspout

Keeping water out of your rowhouse is an important way to ensure its longevity, and the roof is your first line of defense

Tip: If replacing your roof, use white silicone to save money and attract less sunlight. You can also reduce water buildup with downspouts or rain barrels



Interior Design

Row houses often have very steep staircases to minimize space

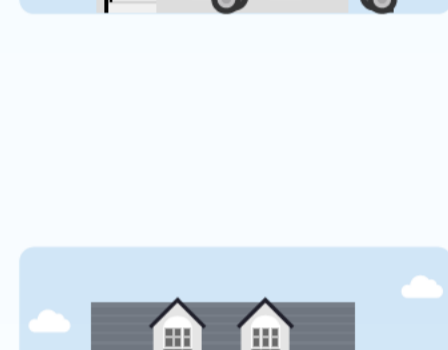
Tip: Consider adding a firmer railing, non-slip strips, or brighter lighting to reduce the risk of injury or falls



Heating and Cooling

Most row houses are heated by a boiler or furnace that is fueled by natural gas or oil, providing heat for cold nights

Tip: Regularly changing your furnace filters can improve the system's lifespan. A properly secured Window AC unit or ceiling fan can also help cool your harder-to-reach third floor on warmer days



Plumbing

About 20,000 homes in Philly have lead pipes connecting to water mains in the city

Tip: To avoid potential contamination, lead piping should always be replaced if found



Electricity and Energy

Often, older homes are less electricity efficient

Tip: Caulking cracks, replacing weather stripping, choosing efficient appliances, and switching to fluorescent bulbs are just a few ways to conserve electricity and save on monthly bills

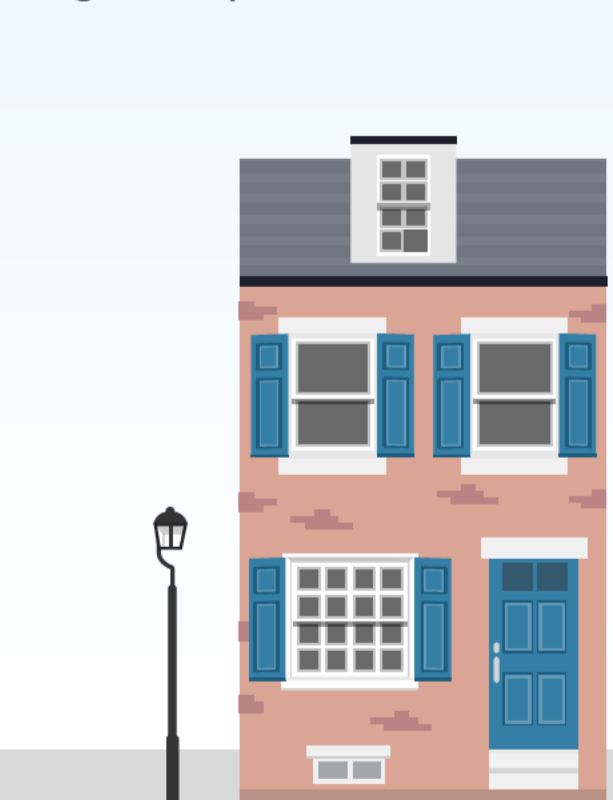
Did you know that Philly has twelve different styles of row houses?

The first row houses were built in 1799 and today these homes are part of the famous "Jeweler's Row."



Fishtown	Germantown	North Philadelphia	Old City	Olde Kensington	Queen Village	Rittenhouse Square
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Form meets function - initially served as homes for local fisherman and shipbuilders. You'll notice many houses have small fish signs hanging outside. These were created by the Fishtown Neighbors Association in the early 2000s to raise money, as well as create a sense of community and connection to the area's long history.



Trinity/bandbox
Historically, tiny, more affordable "Trinity" or Bandbox houses served people working in Philadelphia's burgeoning port. They were defined by one entry, a narrow "winder" staircase, and shared community necessities.

Workingman's House

