

Recessed Lighting Pre-Plan Checklist

Plan a layout you'll love before any holes get cut.

1. Room & Layout

- ☐ Measure the room (length × width).
- ☐ Mark which side is the primary task area (sofa, island, desk).
- ☐ Decide on general lighting vs accent vs task — most rooms need a mix.
- ☐ Sketch a grid: typical spacing is fixture diameter × 6 (a 4-inch light → ~24 inches apart).
- ☐ Stay 18–24 inches off walls to avoid harsh edge shadows.

2. Fixture Choice

- ☐ Decide wafer/canless vs traditional can lights.
- ☐ Pick size: 4-inch (subtle), 6-inch (bright/general).
- ☐ Choose color temperature: 2700K (warm), 3000K (warm-neutral), 3500K (neutral).
- ☐ Confirm the fixture is dimmable AND matches your dimmer type (TRIAC, ELV, 0–10V).
- ☐ Pick lumens per fixture — typically 600–900 for living spaces.

Mixing color temperatures across a room reads as 'off.' Pick one and stick to it.

3. Access & Wiring

- ☐ Confirm attic access above the room (yes / no / partial).
- ☐ Identify obstructions: ducts, joists, plumbing, beams.
- ☐ Decide switching: one zone, two zones, or 3-way switching.
- ☐ Plan the home-run circuit and dimmer location.

4. Permits & Inspection

- ☐ Confirm your town requires a permit for new circuits.
- ☐ Ask installer if permit + inspection is included in price.

5. Questions to Ask

- ☐ Will you create a layout drawing before cutting?
- ☐ Are the fixtures and dimmer compatible? Will you test before leaving?
- ☐ What's your patch-and-paint policy if drywall has to be opened?
- ☐ What's the workmanship warranty?

A great recessed lighting plan is 70% layout, 20% fixtures, 10% install. Slow down on the layout.

Want a second set of eyes?

Text photos of your panel or project to **516-361-4068** and Rob will give you a quick honest opinion — no pressure, no quote pitch.