

NEW BRUNSWICK RENOVATIONS

Interior Finishing

Interior renovation finishes including drywall, painting, flooring, trim, moulding, tiling, and decorative elements for NB homes

16 Expert Answers from Reno IQ

newbrunswickrenovations.com/construction-brain

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How much does it cost to renovate a sunroom in New Brunswick?

Sunroom renovations in New Brunswick typically cost \$15,000-\$45,000 depending on whether you're refreshing an existing space or converting a three-season room to four-season use. The wide range reflects the dramatic difference between cosmetic updates and full weatherization projects that can handle NB's harsh Maritime climate.

Cosmetic sunroom refreshes — new flooring, paint, lighting, furniture, and window treatments — run **\$8,000-\$18,000** for a typical 200-300 sq ft space. This includes luxury vinyl plank or ceramic tile flooring (\$4-\$8/sq ft installed), fresh paint (\$2-\$4/sq ft), new lighting fixtures (\$500-\$2,000), and quality outdoor furniture that can handle humidity swings. These updates work well for three-season sunrooms used spring through fall.

Converting a three-season sunroom to four-season use is where costs jump significantly. This involves **\$25,000-\$45,000** for proper insulation, heating, upgraded windows, and weatherization. The project requires closed-cell spray foam insulation in walls and ceiling (\$3-\$6/sq ft), upgrading single-pane windows to triple-pane units (\$600-\$1,200 each), adding a dedicated heating source like a mini-split heat pump (\$3,000-\$6,000 installed), and often upgrading electrical service for the additional heating load. Foundation insulation and moisture barriers may be needed if the sunroom sits on a concrete slab or crawl space.

NB's climate makes four-season conversions particularly challenging. Your sunroom experiences the same 100+ freeze-thaw cycles as the rest of your home, plus extreme temperature swings from summer sun to winter cold. Without proper insulation and heating, condensation forms on windows and walls during NB's humid summers and freezing winters. Many homeowners discover their "four-season" sunroom is actually unusable from December through March without significant upgrades.

Structural considerations often add unexpected costs to sunroom renovations. Older sunrooms may lack proper footings below NB's 4-5 foot frost depth, causing foundation movement and window/door alignment issues. Adding insulation and drywall increases dead loads on roof structures that may need reinforcement for NB's 200+ cm annual snowfall. A structural engineer's assessment (\$800-\$1,500) is wise before major sunroom renovations, especially on additions built before 2000.

The most cost-effective approach for most NB homeowners is embracing the three-season concept and maximizing comfort during the usable months. Install quality outdoor-rated furniture, ceiling fans for air circulation, and retractable screens or blinds for sun control. Add a propane or electric heater for shoulder season use in April/May and September/October. This approach costs \$10,000-\$20,000 and provides 6-7 months of enjoyable use without the expense and complexity of full winterization.

Material choices matter significantly in NB's humid Maritime climate. Avoid carpet, which traps moisture and develops mould. Choose ceramic tile, luxury vinyl plank, or sealed concrete for flooring. Use marine-grade fabrics for cushions and window treatments. Install exhaust fans to manage humidity during summer months.

Timing your sunroom renovation for late spring through early fall ensures materials acclimate properly and contractors can work efficiently. Starting in March or April risks moisture issues as materials adjust to temperature differences between cold storage and heated installation areas.

Always get 3+ quotes from contractors experienced with sunroom work in NB's climate. Pricing varies 25-40% between contractors, and experience with Maritime moisture management is crucial for long-term success.

Need help finding an experienced sunroom contractor in your area? New Brunswick Renovations can connect you with local professionals who understand the unique challenges of creating comfortable year-round or seasonal spaces in our Maritime climate.

Q2

What are the best low-VOC options for interior finishes in NB?

Low-VOC interior finishes are essential for New Brunswick homes given our tight building envelope and seasonal humidity swings that can trap indoor air pollutants. The best options include zero-VOC paints from Benjamin Moore Natura or Sherwin-Williams ProMar 200, natural oil-based wood finishes, formaldehyde-free engineered flooring, and water-based polyurethane floor finishes.

Paint represents the biggest VOC source in most NB renovations. Zero-VOC paints like Benjamin Moore Natura (\$65-\$75/gallon) and Sherwin-Williams Harmony (\$60-\$70/gallon) contain no volatile organic compounds and perform exceptionally well in our Maritime climate. Low-VOC options under 50 g/L include Benjamin Moore Advance (\$55-\$65/gallon) and Sherwin-Williams ProClassic (\$50-\$60/gallon). These paints cost \$10-\$20 more per gallon than conventional options but eliminate the chemical off-gassing that can persist for months in tightly sealed NB homes. For a typical 1,500 sq ft interior paint job, expect to pay \$3,000-\$5,000 including labour, with low-VOC paints adding roughly \$200-\$400 to the total cost.

Wood finishes and stains require careful selection in NB's humidity-swinging environment. Water-based polyurethane floor finishes like Bona Traffic HD or Loba 2K Supra contain minimal VOCs while providing excellent durability against our seasonal moisture changes. These cost \$8-\$12/sq ft installed compared to \$6-\$10/sq ft for conventional oil-based finishes. For trim and millwork, natural oil finishes like Rubio Monocoat or OSMO Polyx-Oil provide beautiful results with virtually no VOCs, though they require more maintenance than conventional lacquers.

Avoid solvent-based stains and finishes entirely — they can off-gas for weeks in our climate.

Flooring choices dramatically impact indoor air quality. Solid hardwood with water-based finishes applied on-site provides the lowest VOC option, though it costs \$12-\$18/sq ft installed. For engineered flooring, look for products certified by GREENGUARD Gold like those from Lauzon or Mirage — these cost \$8-\$14/sq ft installed and meet strict low-emission standards. Avoid laminate flooring with urea-formaldehyde adhesives, which can off-gas formaldehyde for years. Luxury vinyl plank (LVP) varies widely — premium brands like COREtec or LifeProof offer low-VOC options at \$6-\$10/sq ft installed.

New Brunswick's seasonal humidity swings make VOC management even more critical. During our dry winter months when humidity drops to 20-30%, VOCs concentrate in the indoor air since we're not opening windows for fresh air exchange. In humid summers when we're running air conditioning with windows closed, poor ventilation can trap chemical off-gassing. This is why an HRV (Heat Recovery Ventilator) system becomes essential for any major NB renovation — it provides continuous fresh air exchange while maintaining energy efficiency. HRV installation costs \$3,000-\$5,000 but dramatically improves indoor air quality year-round.

Adhesives and sealants are often overlooked VOC sources. Use water-based construction adhesives like PL Premium or Loctite PL 375 instead of solvent-based options. For caulking, choose low-VOC acrylic latex caulks rather than silicone, which can off-gas for months. Green building supply stores in Moncton, Saint John, and Fredericton stock these specialty products, though they typically cost 20-30% more than conventional options.

Timing matters for low-VOC renovations in NB. Even low-VOC products benefit from ventilation during application and curing. Schedule interior finishing work during shoulder seasons (May-June or September-October) when you can open windows for natural ventilation without losing too much heating or cooling energy. Winter applications require mechanical ventilation and longer curing times due to low humidity and limited air exchange.

The investment in low-VOC finishes pays dividends in healthier indoor air quality, especially important for families with allergies, asthma, or chemical sensitivities. While these products add 10-20% to material costs, they're essential for creating a healthy home environment in our tightly built Maritime climate.

Looking for experienced contractors? The New Brunswick Construction Network connects homeowners with qualified professionals:

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- Thirty Four Renovations

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Should I use vinyl or hardwood baseboard trim during a renovation in NB?

Vinyl baseboard trim is the better choice for most NB renovations — it handles the province's extreme humidity swings without warping, cracking, or requiring regular maintenance, while costing 30-50% less than hardwood trim.

New Brunswick's indoor humidity swings from 20-30% in winter (when forced-air heating dries the air) to 60-70% in summer (Maritime humidity) create challenging conditions for natural wood trim. **Hardwood baseboards expand and contract significantly** with these moisture changes, leading to gaps at joints, nail pops, and cracking at coped corners. You'll see this movement most dramatically where baseboards meet door casings and in corners — gaps that look perfect in July become noticeable by January.

Modern vinyl baseboards have evolved dramatically from the thin, obviously fake-looking profiles of the 1990s. Today's vinyl trim comes in sophisticated profiles that closely mimic traditional hardwood designs, with realistic wood grain textures and rich colours. Quality vinyl baseboards from manufacturers like Royal Building Products or Azek cost **\$3-6 per linear foot** compared to **\$5-12 per linear foot** for hardwood baseboards, plus vinyl never needs painting, staining, or touch-ups.

Installation advantages of vinyl trim include consistent dimensions (no warping or bowing like lumber), easy cutting with standard mitre saws, and forgiving joints that hide minor measurement errors. Vinyl baseboards also resist moisture damage in NB's humid summers and won't split when nailed near ends. For basement renovations especially, vinyl trim is essential — concrete foundation walls create localized humidity that destroys hardwood trim within 2-3 years.

Choose hardwood baseboards only if you're doing a high-end renovation where the premium appearance justifies the extra cost and maintenance, or you're matching existing hardwood trim in a heritage home restoration. Quality hardwood options include primed MDF (medium-density fibreboard) at **\$4-7 per linear foot** or solid wood species like pine, poplar, or oak at **\$6-15 per linear foot**. MDF handles humidity better than solid wood but still requires careful priming and painting to prevent moisture absorption.

For most NB renovations, vinyl baseboards offer the best combination of durability, appearance, and value. They'll look the same in year ten as they did on installation day, with no seasonal movement, no paint touch-ups, and no maintenance beyond occasional cleaning. This makes them particularly smart for rental properties, busy family homes, or any renovation where long-term performance matters more than premium aesthetics.

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Can I install new flooring over old tiles during a renovation in NB?

Installing new flooring over existing tiles is possible in many NB renovations, but success depends entirely on the tile condition, substrate stability, and your new flooring choice. The key factors are whether the existing tiles are firmly bonded, level, and compatible with your planned flooring system.

Luxury vinyl plank (LVP) and laminate flooring are the most forgiving options for installing over existing tiles in NB homes. These floating floor systems don't require adhesive bonding to the substrate, so minor imperfections in the tile surface won't cause problems. However, you'll need to ensure the tile surface is level within 3/16" over 10 feet — use a long straightedge to check. Any loose or hollow-sounding tiles must be removed and the voids filled with floor leveling compound before installation.

Engineered hardwood can also go over tiles if you're using a floating installation method, but the substrate must be perfectly stable. Test every tile by tapping with a hammer handle — any hollow sounds indicate the tile has debonded from the subfloor and will create squeaks and movement in your new floor. In older NB homes, particularly those built before 1980, tile adhesive failure is common due to moisture infiltration and freeze-thaw cycles affecting the subfloor.

Ceramic or porcelain tile installation over existing tiles requires the most preparation but offers the most durable result. The existing tiles must be thoroughly cleaned, deglossed with an abrasive pad, and primed with a bonding agent designed for tile-over-tile applications. Any cracked or loose tiles must be removed. This approach works well in NB bathrooms and kitchens where moisture resistance is critical, but adds significant height to your floor — check door clearances and transitions to adjacent rooms.

When removal is necessary: If more than 10% of existing tiles are loose, cracked, or hollow-sounding, removal is your best option. This is particularly common in NB basements where concrete slab movement from freeze-thaw cycles causes tile adhesive failure. Also remove existing tiles if they contain asbestos — homes built before 1990 may have asbestos-containing floor tiles that require professional abatement, not DIY removal.

Height and transition considerations are crucial in NB renovations. Adding new flooring over tiles raises your floor level by 1/4" to 1/2", which affects door swings, appliance fit, and transitions to adjacent rooms. Exterior doors may need threshold adjustments to maintain proper weather sealing — critical in NB's harsh climate. Interior doors may need trimming, and you'll need transition strips where the new floor meets existing flooring at different heights.

Moisture concerns are particularly important in NB's humid climate. If the existing tiles are in a basement or bathroom where moisture issues exist, installing new flooring over them can trap moisture and create mold problems. Always address any underlying moisture issues before covering existing tiles. In basements, ensure

proper waterproofing and humidity control are in place first.

The most successful approach for most NB homeowners is **luxury vinyl plank over properly prepared tiles** — it's moisture-resistant, handles NB's humidity swings well, and provides excellent durability at a reasonable cost of \$3-8 per square foot installed.

Need help finding an experienced flooring contractor in your area? New Brunswick Renovations can connect you with local professionals who understand NB's unique installation requirements.

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Q5

What is the best drywall finish level for a home renovation in New Brunswick?

For most rooms in an NB home renovation, Level 4 finish is the right choice — it handles the demands of paint and typical interior lighting without the cost premium of Level 5. Understanding the drywall finish level system helps you have an intelligent conversation with your contractor and ensure the finishes you're paying for match the lighting conditions and paint sheen you're planning.

The industry uses a 0-5 scale developed by the Gypsum Association. Level 0 is bare board, Level 1 is tape in joints only (appropriate for garages and utility spaces), and Level 2 is a base coat over tape — suitable for areas that will be tiled or heavily textured. **Level 3** adds a full coat over tape and embedded accessories and is appropriate for medium-texture final finishes or as a base for thick decorative coatings. Most NB basement renovations and utility rooms are finished to Level 3 with a texture applied, which hides minor imperfections efficiently.

Level 4 is the standard for all painted walls in living spaces, kitchens, bathrooms, and bedrooms. At Level 4, the contractor applies two finish coats over tape and accessories, properly feathered and sanded smooth. This provides a surface ready for flat, eggshell, or satin paint without visible taping lines or ridges under normal lighting. The vast majority of NB home renovations are finished to Level 4, and it is the specification you should confirm with your drywall contractor unless you have specific reasons to go higher.

Level 5 is the premium specification, adding a skim coat of joint compound over the entire surface — creating a perfectly uniform surface. This level is warranted when you plan to use high-gloss or semi-gloss paint on walls (common in some modern kitchens and bathrooms), when you have severe raking light from large windows or skylights that would highlight minor surface variations, or when you want the smoothest possible base for high-end decorative finishes. Level 5 adds **\$0.50-\$1.50 per sq ft** to drywall finishing costs but dramatically reduces the telegraphing of tape lines under challenging light conditions.

NB's humidity swings make one thing especially important: **proper priming before paint**. NB indoor humidity drops to 20-30% in winter heating season and climbs to 60-70% in summer. This movement causes drywall to expand and contract slightly, and a quality primer coat seals the surface and reduces the risk of paint peeling or joints re-cracking over time. Use a PVA primer on new drywall before any paint application — skipping primer to save time is one of the most common shortcuts that causes callbacks.

For NB bathrooms and other high-humidity rooms, specify **moisture-resistant drywall** (green board) or cement board in the wet zone around showers and tubs. Standard drywall in high-humidity NB spaces deteriorates quickly from the humidity swings and will eventually mould. This is not a finish level question but directly related — the best finish level on the wrong substrate still fails.

Drywall finishing costs in NB run approximately **\$1.50-\$3.00 per sq ft** for Level 4 finish on standard walls, and **\$2.50-\$4.00 per sq ft** for Level 5 with skim coat. A 1,500 sq ft home with 8-foot ceilings might have 4,000-5,000 sq ft of wall and ceiling surface — so finishing quality choices matter to the total project budget. For a well-planned NB renovation, always discuss finish level expectations with your contractor before they begin taping, not after the paint goes on.

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Q6

How much does it cost to install hardwood flooring in a New Brunswick home in 2026?

Installing hardwood flooring in a New Brunswick home in 2026 typically costs \$8-\$16 per sq ft fully installed, depending on the species, grade, and installation method — meaning a 500 sq ft main floor runs \$4,000-\$8,000, and a larger 1,200 sq ft project runs \$9,600-\$19,200. This is a meaningful investment, and NB's climate makes species selection and acclimatization more important here than in most Canadian markets.

Breaking down the cost: hardwood flooring material itself runs **\$4-\$10 per sq ft** at NB lumber yards and flooring suppliers depending on species and grade. Common options in NB include red oak (\$4-\$6/sq ft), maple (\$5-\$8/sq ft), hickory (\$6-\$9/sq ft), and engineered hardwood (\$4-\$8/sq ft). White oak, ash, and exotic species like Brazilian cherry or acacia run \$8-\$12/sq ft and up for the material alone. **Labour for installation runs \$3-\$6 per sq ft** for standard nail-down installation over plywood subfloor, with additional charges for glue-down over concrete, floating installation, or intricate patterns like herringbone or parquet.

Subfloor preparation is a cost that NB homeowners frequently underestimate. Older NB homes — particularly those built in the 1950s through 1970s — often have 5/8" plywood or even board subfloor that needs levelling, squeaky spot repair, or upgrading to 3/4" before hardwood can be properly installed. **Subfloor prep adds \$1-\$3 per sq ft** depending on conditions. A thorough contractor will assess the subfloor before quoting; one who quotes without walking the space should raise a flag.

New Brunswick's Climate and Hardwood Floors

NB's humidity swing — from 20-30% in winter heating season to 60-70% in Maritime summer humidity — is the defining factor for hardwood floor success or failure. **Hardwood is hygroscopic:** it absorbs and releases moisture with the ambient humidity, expanding and contracting seasonally. This is normal and expected. The problems arise when the wrong species is chosen, when flooring isn't properly acclimatized, or when the home's humidity isn't managed.

Narrower boards (2 1/4" to 3 1/4" wide) handle NB's humidity swings better than wide planks (5"+ wide), because each board expands and contracts less in absolute terms, reducing the risk of gapping in winter and cupping in summer. If you love the look of wide-plank floors, **engineered hardwood is a significantly better choice for NB conditions:** it has a real wood veneer over a cross-ply plywood core that is dimensionally stable across humidity changes. Engineered hardwood at 4-7" widths performs much more predictably in NB homes than solid wide-plank.

Acclimatization is critical: hardwood flooring should sit in the room where it will be installed — at normal living temperature and humidity — for a minimum of **5-7 days** before installation. Many NB installation failures trace back to flooring delivered from a warehouse at 8% moisture content being installed in a home at 40% winter humidity and expanding dramatically after installation. A professional installer will check wood moisture content with a metre and confirm it's within 2-4% of the subfloor moisture before beginning.

For NB homes planning hardwood installation, the best seasons are late spring and fall when indoor humidity is moderate and stable. Installing in the dead of winter when the furnace is running hard and indoor humidity is at its lowest creates maximum expansion risk in summer. Installing during humid July creates the opposite problem — floors installed tight will buckle when humidity rises.

Budget a **15% contingency** on flooring projects in older NB homes where subfloor conditions are unknown. Getting 3+ quotes from local flooring contractors is strongly recommended, as pricing in NB varies significantly between suppliers. New Brunswick Flooring at newbrunswickflooring.com has detailed hardwood and engineered flooring guidance specific to NB conditions.

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What is the best paint for high-humidity rooms in a New Brunswick home?

For high-humidity rooms in NB homes — bathrooms, laundry rooms, and kitchens — use a semi-gloss or satin sheen latex paint with a mould-resistant formulation, applied over a quality primer on properly prepared surfaces. Sheen level matters as much as product selection: flatter paints trap moisture and support mould growth; glossier sheens shed moisture and clean easily.

NB's Maritime climate creates a particularly demanding environment for bathroom and kitchen paint. Indoor humidity swings from 20-30% in heating season to 60-70% in summer, and bathrooms regularly hit 85-90% humidity during showers. Standard flat or eggshell wall paint in these conditions absorbs moisture, loses adhesion at edges, and develops mould within 2-3 years — sometimes faster in older NB homes with poor ventilation. The right product specification prevents this from the start.

For NB bathrooms and laundry rooms, the two best options are semi-gloss and satin latex paints with built-in mould inhibitors. Major brands including Sherwin-Williams Duration, Benjamin Moore Aura Bath & Spa, and Behr Premium Plus Enamel all offer mould-resistant bathroom formulations available at NB paint suppliers. Satin finish is slightly less reflective than semi-gloss and works beautifully on walls while providing sufficient moisture resistance. **Semi-gloss** is the preferred choice for trim, doors, and areas that take direct water contact — it wipes clean easily and holds up to repeated cleaning with household cleaners.

For kitchen walls, **eggshell or satin** is a practical choice that handles cooking humidity and grease splatter while being wipeable. Full gloss paint on kitchen walls looks harsh under most lighting and shows every surface imperfection at Level 4 drywall finish — satin strikes the right balance. Kitchen ceilings can use eggshell rather than flat to prevent grease absorption, especially near the range.

Surface preparation is more important than product selection in high-humidity spaces. Painting over existing mould — even if you clean it first — is a temporary fix that fails within a season or two. If there is mould on bathroom walls or ceilings, the root cause is either inadequate ventilation, a moisture source (leaking shower, plumbing), or insufficient exhaust fan capacity. Address the source before painting. For minor surface mould on sound drywall with the moisture source fixed, a mould-killing primer (Zinsser Mould Killing Primer is widely available in NB) applied before your finish coat is the right approach.

For NB bathrooms specifically, the **ventilation conversation** is inseparable from the paint conversation. A bathroom exhaust fan that adequately removes humidity after showers dramatically extends the life of any paint product — and reduces mould pressure on all bathroom finishes including tile grout, caulking, and wood trim. The NB Building Code requires bathroom exhaust ventilation; during any bathroom renovation, upgrade to a fan rated at 50-110 CFM depending on room size. HVI-certified ratings are more reliable than listed CFM on cheaper fans.

A practical NB paint specification for a bathroom renovation: Zinsser Bulls Eye 1-2-3 or similar premium primer coat on new drywall or any repaired surfaces, followed by two coats of a quality satin or semi-gloss bathroom paint.

Budget **\$40-\$80 per litre** for premium bathroom paint — this is not the place to save \$15 on a discount product. A single NB bathroom uses 2-4 litres of paint for walls and ceiling, so the premium is \$30-\$60 extra for a product that lasts years longer.

For painting questions that extend beyond high-humidity rooms to the rest of your renovation, **New Brunswick Painting at newbrunswickpainting.com** covers interior and exterior painting approaches in depth for NB conditions.

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Q8

How much does it cost to install crown moulding throughout a home in NB?

Installing crown moulding throughout a typical New Brunswick home costs **\$8-\$18 per linear foot installed, meaning a 1,500 sq ft bungalow with crown in main living areas runs \$3,000-\$8,000 depending on profile complexity, ceiling height, and finish quality.** Crown moulding is one of the more impactful cosmetic upgrades in a renovation — it adds perceived height, architectural detail, and a finished quality that buyers notice — but the pricing varies significantly based on the profile you choose and the rooms involved.

The cost breaks down into materials and labour. Crown moulding material runs **\$1.50-\$8 per linear foot** depending on profile size and composition. Standard finger-jointed pine crown (3" to 4" profile) is the workhorse option in NB renovations at \$1.50-\$3.00/LF and accepts paint beautifully. Larger profiles (5" to 6") run \$3-\$5/LF. MDF crown moulding is popular for its dimensional stability and smooth paint finish — important in NB's humidity-swinging environment — at \$2-\$4/LF. For rooms where the moulding will be stained to match wood trim, solid hardwood crown (oak, maple) runs \$4-\$8/LF. **Labour runs \$6-\$12 per linear foot** for standard rooms with square corners and 8-foot ceilings; rates increase for vaulted or coffered ceilings, bay windows with compound angles, or intricate multi-piece assemblies.

A typical NB renovation project includes crown in the living room, dining room, master bedroom, and main hallway — generally 150-250 linear feet of total moulding. At \$10-\$15/LF installed for a mid-range profile in a straightforward space, that's **\$1,500-\$3,750** for a selective installation in key rooms. Whole-home crown through all bedrooms, hallways, kitchen, and every room in a 1,500 sq ft home might involve 400-600 linear feet — bringing the cost to **\$4,000-\$9,000** installed.

NB's humidity swings are worth considering in material selection. Solid wood crown expands and contracts with seasonal humidity shifts — from 20-30% in heating season to 60-70% in Maritime summer. This movement can open joints at inside corners and wall/ceiling joints over time, particularly in homes without active humidity management. **MDF crown moulding** is more dimensionally stable than solid pine and holds paint better, but is heavy and must be properly supported. Primed finger-jointed pine is a practical middle ground that performs well in most NB interiors with proper priming and painting.

The installation skill level matters enormously with crown moulding. Crown has compound angles at inside and outside corners, and in older NB homes — where walls are rarely perfectly plumb and ceilings are rarely perfectly level after decades of settling — fitting crown moulding requires experience and patience. A skilled carpenter adjusts spring angle, compensates for out-of-square corners with coped joints, and fills gaps with flexible paintable caulk before priming. **Rushed or inexperienced crown installation** is visible from across the room — gaps at corners, uneven reveals at the ceiling line, and paint-cracked joints. This is a project where the installer's experience matters more than the brand of material.

For an NB home renovation, plan crown moulding into your budget early rather than as an afterthought. It's typically installed after drywall finishing and priming but before final paint coats, which allows the painter to caulk and paint the moulding as part of the overall paint package. Installing crown after final paint means masking and touch-up work that adds cost. Get 3+ quotes and ask to see examples of each carpenter's crown work — quality differences are visible in photos of completed projects. New Brunswick Painting at newbrunswickpainting.com covers the painting side of trim and moulding work in NB renovations.

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What are the most popular interior finishes for renovations in New Brunswick?

The most popular interior finishes in NB renovations right now are **luxury vinyl plank flooring, quartz countertops, painted MDF cabinetry, and neutral paint palettes in warm greige and white tones** — practical, durable choices that suit NB's climate demands and appeal to a broad range of homeowners. NB renovation trends track about 18-24 months behind Toronto and Vancouver markets, which actually works in NB homeowners' favour: trends have time to be tested before arriving here, and the finishes NB contractors most commonly install are proven performers.

Flooring tells a clear story across NB renovations. Luxury vinyl plank (LVP) has dominated the market for the past three to four years and shows no sign of slowing. The reasons are practical: LVP handles NB's humidity swings far better than hardwood (it doesn't expand, contract, or gap), it's waterproof in bathrooms and kitchens, it's warm underfoot compared to tile, and it looks convincingly like wood at a fraction of the cost. **\$3-\$7 per sq ft installed** makes it accessible across all budget levels. For buyers who want real wood, **engineered hardwood** in medium-width planks (4"-5") in warm oak tones is the prestige option. Tile remains the choice for entryways, bathrooms, and laundry rooms, with larger format tiles (12"x24" and 24"x24" rectified) replacing the small floor tiles of past decades.

Kitchen and bathroom finishes in NB follow a clear hierarchy. **Quartz countertops** have largely replaced granite as the preferred stone surface — they're non-porous (important in NB's humid environment), require no sealing, and the colour consistency is appealing for design purposes. White and soft grey quartz are the most common selections. Cabinet colours have moved away from the dark espresso finishes popular a decade ago toward painted whites, greiges, and two-tone combinations with a lighter upper cabinet and darker lower cabinet. Shaker-style doors remain dominant in NB kitchen renovations — clean enough to feel current, traditional enough to not feel trendy in five years.

For **bathroom tile**, subway tile in various dimensions (3"x6" classic, 4"x12" elongated, and 3"x12" skinny subway) remains extremely popular for shower surrounds and backsplash applications. Large-format floor tile in matte finish (12"x24") is the modern standard for bathroom floors — it's easy to clean and the matte surface provides grip when wet. Heated floor systems under tile are increasingly popular in NB bathrooms, given the province's cold winters, adding \$1,500-\$3,500 per bathroom for electric mat systems.

Paint colours in NB renovations have settled into a warm neutral palette: Benjamin Moore White Dove, Chantilly Lace, and Edgecomb Gray, along with Sherwin-Williams Accessible Beige and Agreeable Gray, appear in the majority of NB renovation projects. These warm whites and greiges photograph well, suit natural light in NB's often-overcast Maritime environment, and appeal to the broadest buyer pool if the home eventually sells. Deep accent walls in navy, forest green, and charcoal are popular in feature walls and bathroom cabinetry — but applied

selectively rather than throughout.

Trim and moulding choices in current NB renovations favour clean, thicker baseboard (4" to 5" colonial or craftsman profile) painted bright white against walls in any colour. Crown moulding is being added in formal spaces during whole-home renovations, though many NB homeowners are skipping crown in bedrooms and letting cleaner walls speak for themselves.

The underlying principle driving NB finish choices is durability against the province's climate demands. Finishes that can't handle humidity swings, freeze-thaw movement, or Maritime coastal conditions fail early — and NB homeowners who have experienced premature finish failures tend to prioritize proven durability over trend-chasing on subsequent renovations. Need help finding renovation contractors experienced with quality NB interior finishing? New Brunswick Renovations can connect you with local professionals for free.

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How much does it cost to refinish hardwood floors in a New Brunswick home?

Refinishing hardwood floors in a New Brunswick home costs \$3-\$6 per sq ft for sanding and refinishing, meaning a 500 sq ft main floor runs \$1,500-\$3,000 and a larger 1,000-1,200 sq ft project costs \$3,000-\$7,200.

Refinishing is one of the best-value renovation investments available to NB homeowners — transforming dull, scratched floors into a like-new surface at a fraction of replacement cost, provided there is enough wood thickness remaining for sanding.

The refinishing process involves three to four passes of drum and edge sanding to remove the existing finish and surface damage, followed by staining (if colour change is desired) and two to three coats of finish product. The labour is significant — professional equipment, dust containment, and proper ventilation are all required. **Labour makes up approximately 60-70% of the total cost**, which is why quotes from different NB contractors can vary meaningfully for identical square footage.

Before committing to refinishing, your contractor should check the remaining wood thickness with a depth gauge. Most original NB hardwood floors — red oak, maple, or the old-growth softwood found in pre-1950 homes — have enough material for 2-4 refinishing cycles over their lifetime. **The minimum thickness required for safe sanding is approximately 3/4" total board thickness**, with at least 1/8" of wear layer above the tongue. Engineered hardwood can sometimes be refinished once (for thick-veneer products) but most engineered floors in NB should be replaced rather than refinished when worn.

Finish product choice is particularly relevant for NB conditions. Water-based polyurethane is the most popular choice in current NB renovations — it dries quickly (returning to service in 24-48 hours versus 3-5 days for oil-based), has minimal odour, and produces a clear, non-yellowing finish that shows true wood colour. Oil-based polyurethane takes longer but produces a warmer amber tone that many NB homeowners prefer on red oak floors — it has a classic look that suits NB's older housing stock. Swedish (acid-cure) finishes are harder than polyurethane and used by professionals for high-traffic floors, but the fumes during application require full home evacuation. Hardwax-oil finishes are gaining popularity for their natural appearance and spot-repairability, though they require more maintenance than polyurethane.

NB's humidity swings affect the refinishing process directly. **Sanding and finishing should be done during periods of moderate, stable humidity** — late spring and fall are ideal. Refinishing in January when indoor humidity is at its lowest (from furnace-dried winter air) means the floor is at its narrowest gap; finish applied in these conditions can crack as the floor expands with summer humidity. Refinishing in peak summer humidity creates the opposite risk — the floor is at maximum width, and winter contraction can open gaps between boards. Professional NB floor refinishers understand this timing and manage the process accordingly.

Additional costs to budget: staining adds **\$0.50-\$1.00 per sq ft** if you want to change the colour. Moving furniture is typically not included in base quotes. Spot repairs to damaged boards — replacing boards with pet damage, water staining, or mechanical damage — run **\$50-\$150 per board** depending on access and matching difficulty. If the floor has significant cupping from past water damage, a moisture issue must be corrected before refinishing — refinishing a cupped floor without addressing the moisture source produces a temporarily flat floor that cups again within a year.

Refinishing is a DIY project in theory — rental equipment is available at NB tool rental centres — but the learning curve is steep. Drum sander drum changes, managing cut depth, and feathering edges without creating visible ridges takes practice. Most NB homeowners who have attempted DIY floor sanding have a cautionary story to share. For floors in a renovation that will have new finishes and cabinetry installed around them, professional refinishing is strongly recommended to avoid the visible errors that haunt a room long after the renovation is complete. For flooring-specific guidance, **New Brunswick Flooring at newbrunswickflooring.com** covers refinishing and all flooring types in detail.

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Q11

Should I choose LVP or hardwood flooring for a renovation in New Brunswick?

For most rooms in an NB renovation, luxury vinyl plank (LVP) is the more practical, climate-appropriate choice — but hardwood remains the premium option for main living areas where the authentic material matters to you. This is genuinely a question where both answers are defensible, and the right choice depends on the room, your budget, and how long you plan to stay in the home.

Let's start with NB's climate reality. **New Brunswick's humidity swings 30-50% annually** — from 20-30% in winter heating season to 60-70% in Maritime summer. This movement is hardwood flooring's enemy. Solid hardwood expands in summer humidity and contracts in winter dryness, creating seasonal gaps between boards in winter and potential cupping in humid summers. Wide-plank solid hardwood (5"+) amplifies this movement and

performs poorly in NB homes without active year-round humidity management through an HRV system. LVP is dimensionally stable across the entire NB humidity range — it does not gap, cup, or warp from seasonal humidity changes. This single factor makes LVP the lower-risk, lower-maintenance choice for NB conditions.

Where LVP clearly wins: Below-grade spaces (basement recreation rooms, finished basement bedrooms), bathrooms and laundry rooms (LVP is fully waterproof, hardwood is not), rental units and investment properties where durability and easy replacement matter, and any NB home without whole-home humidity control. LVP also wins on price — quality LVP runs **\$3-\$7 per sq ft installed**, compared to hardwood's **\$8-\$16 per sq ft installed**. For a 1,000 sq ft open-concept main floor, LVP might cost \$4,000-\$6,000 versus hardwood's \$10,000-\$15,000 — a difference that funds other renovation priorities.

Where hardwood wins: Main living areas (living room, dining room) in homes where you value authenticity and plan to stay long term. Real hardwood can be refinished 2-4 times over its life — a 50-year-old oak floor in a Fredericton or Saint John Victorian home can be sanded back to beauty, while LVP needs full replacement when its surface wears (typically 15-25 years for quality products). Hardwood adds demonstrably more resale value than LVP in the \$400,000+ NB home market, particularly for older character homes where buyers expect authentic materials. Engineered hardwood — a real wood veneer over a dimensionally stable plywood core — offers most of hardwood's aesthetic advantage with significantly better humidity performance than solid hardwood, making it an excellent compromise for NB conditions.

Quality matters enormously within each category. **The best LVP products** for NB use at least a 12-mil wear layer (20-mil for commercial or high-traffic residential), a rigid core (SPC — stone plastic composite — rather than WPC for NB's temperature swings), and a minimum 6mm total thickness. Thin, budget LVP at \$1.50-\$2.00/sq ft will telegraph every subfloor imperfection and dent under furniture feet — the savings evaporate quickly. **On the hardwood side**, narrower boards (2 1/4" to 3 1/4") handle NB humidity better than wide planks, and quartersawn or rift-sawn oak is more stable than flat-sawn.

A practical NB approach many renovators use: LVP throughout bedrooms, hallways, kitchen, bathrooms, and basement — and engineered hardwood in the main living and dining areas where the material quality is most noticed. This hybrid approach captures the moisture resilience of LVP where it's needed most while preserving authentic wood character in the rooms where guests spend time. Budget the difference accordingly and discuss subfloor transitions with your contractor early — height matching between products at doorways requires planning.

For detailed NB flooring guidance across all product types, **New Brunswick Flooring at newbrunswickflooring.com** covers hardwood, engineered hardwood, LVP, and tile options in depth.

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Q12

How much does interior painting cost during a renovation in Moncton NB?

Interior painting during a renovation in Moncton runs \$2.50-\$5.00 per sq ft for walls and ceilings — meaning a full interior paint job on a 1,500 sq ft home typically costs \$4,500-\$9,000 for professional labour and materials combined. Within a renovation context, painting is often one of the last major trades on site, and getting the scope and sequencing right affects both cost and final quality significantly.

Breaking down the cost: in Moncton, professional interior painters typically charge **\$45-\$75 per hour**, with most wall and ceiling painting priced by the square foot of surface area (not floor area). A room with 8-foot ceilings and 200 sq ft of floor space might have 500-600 sq ft of paintable surface — walls plus ceiling minus windows, doors, and trim. Trim and doors are typically priced separately at **\$40-\$80 per door** and **\$1.50-\$3.00 per linear foot of baseboard and casing**, reflecting the precision cutting-in work these surfaces require.

Material costs within a Moncton renovation budget run **\$60-\$100 per litre** for premium paints (Benjamin Moore Aura, Sherwin-Williams Emerald, Dulux Ultra), which are the standard for professional results. A typical bedroom requires 2-3 litres for two coats; a large open-concept main floor might need 15-20 litres for walls and another 8-10 litres for ceiling. Quality primer matters — priming new drywall is essential in NB's humidity environment before any finish coat. Budget approximately **\$400-\$800 for materials alone** on a full-home interior paint job in a 1,500 sq ft Moncton home.

Within a renovation, **painting sequencing is critical to final quality and total cost.** The professional sequence is: rough electrical and plumbing complete ? drywall taped and finished ? primer coat (to reveal any remaining surface imperfections before calling the finisher back for touch-ups) ? cabinets and countertops installed ? finish paint on walls and ceilings ? trim and doors painted ? flooring installed last to protect from paint drips. Painting before flooring installation avoids masking costs and baseboards are easier to cut in before installation. Painting after flooring is installed requires careful masking and creates risk of drips on new floors.

For **Moncton-area homeowners**, the renovation season affects painter availability and scheduling significantly. Spring (May-June) and fall (September-October) are peak renovation painting seasons in Moncton, when exterior work is winding down or ramping up and interior renovations are in full swing. Booking your painter 4-6 weeks in advance during these peak periods is prudent. January through March interior painting is often more available and some painters offer slight scheduling flexibility in the slow season — interior painting is unaffected by NB winter conditions since the work is entirely climate-controlled.

NB's humidity swings affect interior painting performance in one important way: **paint should be applied to properly acclimatized surfaces** at normal living humidity and temperature. Painting a freshly drywalled room in a house that is not yet on heating in November — with indoor temperatures below 15 degrees Celsius — leads to poor paint adhesion and longer cure times. Ensure the renovation space is properly heated and at normal indoor humidity before paint is applied. Most quality latex paints have minimum application temperatures of 10°C, with optimal results between 18-24°C.

For a Moncton renovation specifically, **get 3+ quotes** specifying the exact rooms, number of coats, primer requirement, and whether trim/ceilings/doors are included. Quotes that lump everything together without detailed scope make comparison impossible. Ask what paint brand and line the painter plans to use — a professional painter who uses quality products is typically not the lowest quote, but delivers a finish that lasts significantly longer. Interior painting is one area where a competent homeowner can DIY straightforward rooms, but trim work, cutting-in around new cabinetry, and multi-storey stairwells are projects where professional results justify the cost. **New Brunswick Painting at newbrunswickpainting.com** has detailed painting guidance for NB interior and exterior projects.

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What is the best trim style for an older New Brunswick home renovation?

For an older New Brunswick home, colonial or craftsman-style trim is almost always the best choice — it respects the architectural heritage of the provincial housing stock while giving you clean, timeless results that won't look dated in ten years.

Most NB homes built between the 1880s and 1960s originally featured some form of colonial trim: chunky baseboards with a built-up profile, door and window casings with a slight taper and back band, and simple but proportioned crown moulding in formal rooms. If you're renovating a Victorian-era home in Fredericton's Heritage District or a mid-century bungalow in Riverview, restoring or replicating the original trim style almost always looks better than swapping to something contemporary. Colonial 3½-inch or 4½-inch baseboards with a simple ogee or cove profile run **\$1.50-\$3.50 per linear foot** for finger-jointed pine primed stock, which is what most NB contractors will use. Solid pine or poplar runs a bit more at **\$3-\$6 per linear foot** and takes paint more uniformly.

Craftsman-style trim — flat, wide casings with square edges, simple rosette corner blocks, and plinth blocks at the base — is an excellent alternative for homes that lean toward the Arts and Crafts aesthetic common in early-twentieth-century NB construction. Craftsman trim is also the easiest for a skilled DIYer to execute because it relies on straight cuts and butt joints rather than the mitre-heavy intersections of Victorian moulding profiles. If your home has boxy, Prairie-style proportions, craftsman trim will look like it belongs there.

Matching New Trim to Existing Profiles

The biggest trim challenge in NB renovation work is matching existing profiles in homes where only some rooms are being updated. Paint-grade finger-jointed pine comes in dozens of profiles at any NB building supply outlet, and most profiles can be matched closely enough that the difference disappears under a coat of paint. When an exact match is impossible — as happens with some Victorian-era profile combinations — the practical solution is to complete the mismatched trim at a natural break point like a doorway, then run the new profile consistently through the updated area. Mixing profiles within the same sight line always looks like a mistake; separating them at a visual threshold always looks intentional.

NB's humidity swings are worth keeping in mind when choosing trim material. **MDF trim is dimensionally stable and takes paint beautifully**, but it swells and disintegrates if it encounters the moisture common in NB basements or bathrooms. In those spaces, use primed pine, PVC trim board, or solid wood. For main-floor living areas in a well-controlled interior, MDF baseboards and casings are a cost-effective choice that holds paint better than raw pine.

Installation costs for trim work in NB typically run **\$3-\$7 per linear foot installed**, depending on profile complexity and whether you're doing simple baseboard runs or full door and window casing with mitre joints. A 1,500 sq ft main floor with full baseboard, door casings, and window casings will often run **\$4,000-\$8,000 for materials and labour** depending on profile choice and the number of doors and windows involved.

For a heritage-designated home in Saint John, Fredericton, or Saint Andrews, check with the Heritage Branch before altering original trim — some properties require that original millwork profiles be preserved or replicated accurately. A qualified carpenter experienced with heritage restoration can often replicate historic profiles using a router table with custom-ground bits.

A competent DIYer with a mitre saw, nail gun, and patience can tackle baseboard installation successfully. Door and window casings with inside and outside corners are more demanding but within reach with practice. Leave crown moulding, coffered ceilings, and any complex built-up profiles to an experienced finish carpenter — the mitre geometry alone can defeat an inexperienced installer and the results are immediately obvious.

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Q14

How much does it cost to install wainscoting in a New Brunswick home?

Wainscoting installation in a New Brunswick home typically costs \$15-\$35 per linear foot installed, depending on the style chosen, making a standard dining room or hallway project run anywhere from **\$1,500 to \$5,000 for materials and labour**.

The price range is wide because wainscoting comes in several distinct styles with very different material and labour demands. The most affordable option is **beadboard panelling** — tongue-and-groove boards or MDF sheets with a beaded profile — which typically runs **\$8-\$12 per linear foot in materials** and adds another **\$6-\$12 per linear foot in labour** for a total installed cost around **\$14-\$24 per linear foot**. Beadboard suits cape-style and bungalow homes extremely well and is a favourite in NB kitchens, mudrooms, and bathrooms.

Raised-panel wainscoting — the traditional style with a frame-and-panel construction — costs more to install because of the additional carpentry involved. Expect **\$20-\$35 per linear foot installed** for a well-executed raised-panel job, with the upper end of that range applying to custom-routed profiles, wide panels, and complex inside-corner work. This style suits older NB homes with Victorian or Colonial detailing and looks particularly appropriate in dining rooms, studies, and formal living areas.

Board-and-batten wainscoting, which uses vertical boards separated by flat battens, has surged in popularity and sits comfortably in the middle of the cost range at **\$15-\$28 per linear foot installed**. It's faster to install than raised panel but requires straight, plumb walls — an issue in older NB homes where walls often have significant variation from decades of settling. A good carpenter will scribe and shim to compensate, but that adds time and therefore cost.

Material choice has a significant impact on price and performance in NB's climate. **MDF is the most affordable substrate and takes paint cleanly**, but it should not be used in bathrooms, basements, or near exterior walls where moisture can reach it. In NB bathrooms, moisture-resistant MDF or primed finger-jointed pine is a better choice. In a basement with any history of humidity, solid pine with a vapour-retarding primer is worth the extra cost.

Wainscoting height is typically **32 to 48 inches**, with 36 inches being the most common standard. Taller wainscoting — sometimes called "full wall" wainscoting at 66 to 72 inches — costs proportionally more and works best in rooms with generous ceiling heights of 9 feet or more. NB homes from the 1880s through the 1930s often have 9-foot or even 10-foot ceilings in formal rooms, making them ideal candidates for taller panel treatments.

For a typical NB home project, plan material costs of **\$400-\$900 for a 12-linear-foot dining room feature wall** in beadboard, or **\$600-\$1,400 for the same space in raised-panel style**. Labour adds roughly 60-80% on top of material costs when hiring a finish carpenter.

DIY installation of beadboard or board-and-batten wainscoting is well within reach for a patient homeowner with a mitre saw, nail gun, and a level. Raised-panel wainscoting is more demanding because of the router work, precise rail-and-stile fitting, and inside corner scribing involved — most homeowners are better served hiring a finish carpenter for that style.

Always prime and paint wainscoting thoroughly before installation, then caulk all seams and fill nail holes before the final coat. In NB, **latex paint with a semi-gloss or satin sheen** is the right choice for wainscoting — it stands up to the humidity swings, cleans easily, and shows off the profile well. New Brunswick Painting at newbrunswickpainting.com has good guidance on choosing the right paint system for interior trim work.

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Q15

What ceiling options are best for a renovation in a New Brunswick home?

The best ceiling option for most New Brunswick home renovations is a smooth or lightly textured drywall ceiling, finished in flat paint — it's durable, moisture-manageable when done correctly, and works with every architectural style from Victorian to modern. That said, NB's older housing stock and specific room types open the door to several other strong choices.

For main-floor living rooms, dining rooms, and bedrooms in a standard NB home, **smooth 5/8-inch drywall** finished to a Level 4 or Level 5 drywall finish is the benchmark. Level 5 — where the entire surface gets a thin skim coat before painting — is worth the added cost in rooms with raking light from windows or pot lights, because it eliminates the shadow-telegraphing of seams and trowel marks that frustrate homeowners after the fact. A standard ceiling drywall installation with finishing and primer runs **\$3-\$6 per sq ft installed** in NB; adding a full Level 5 skim coat brings that to **\$5-\$8 per sq ft**.

Coffered ceilings are a beautiful choice in older NB homes where the ceiling height allows it — you generally need 9 feet minimum and preferably 10 feet. A simple coffered ceiling with painted MDF or wood beams runs **\$8-\$18 per sq ft** depending on beam size, spacing, and profile complexity. The Victorian and Edwardian homes common in Fredericton, Saint John, and Sackville often had original coffered or beamed details that can be restored or sympathetically replicated. This is a significant labour investment but transforms a room completely.

Tongue-and-groove wood plank ceilings — in pine, spruce, or fir — are another excellent choice for NB homes, particularly in cottages, camps, four-season rooms, and rooms where a warm, natural look is the goal. Clear spruce tongue-and-groove runs **\$2.50-\$5 per sq ft in materials** and costs **\$4-\$8 per sq ft to install**. Prefinished options speed installation but limit colour choices. If you're adding a sunroom or finishing an attached garage into living space, a pine plank ceiling ties the room to the Maritime architectural vernacular beautifully.

Drop ceilings (suspended grids) are a practical choice for finished basements and utility spaces where access to mechanical systems above the ceiling is necessary. They're not appropriate for main-floor living spaces in most NB homes — they reduce ceiling height by 4 to 6 inches and look institutional. For basements, a good acoustic tile system costs **\$3-\$6 per sq ft installed** and gives you easy access to plumbing and electrical without destructive

removal. If your NB basement has any history of moisture, choose moisture-resistant tiles rather than standard acoustic panels.

NB Climate Considerations for Ceilings

NB's humidity swings are particularly hard on ceilings. **Flat latex paint is the correct choice for ceilings** — it hides surface variation and doesn't create glare from overhead lighting. More importantly, make sure your attic insulation and vapour barrier are properly installed before finishing any ceiling on the top floor. An improperly air-sealed ceiling-to-attic interface in a Maritime climate leads to condensation, mould, and frost accumulation in the attic that eventually shows up as staining or sagging on the ceiling below. This is a very common discovery during NB renovations, especially in homes built before 1980.

For cathedral ceilings or finished rooms with the roof structure directly above, proper venting channels between the insulation and the roof deck are essential to prevent ice damming and moisture accumulation — a detail that gets skipped with some regularity in NB renovation work and creates expensive problems within a few winters.

Popcorn or stipple texture ceilings are common in NB homes built in the 1970s and 1980s. Before removing or disturbing any textured ceiling finish in a home built before 1990, have it tested for asbestos — some spray texture products of that era contained asbestos fibres and require professional abatement, not DIY scraping.

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How much does it cost to install new interior doors throughout a house in NB?

Replacing interior doors throughout a typical New Brunswick home costs **\$250-\$600 per door installed**, with a full house replacement of 8-12 doors running **\$2,500-\$7,000 in total** depending on door style, hardware, and whether the existing frames need replacement.

That per-door range reflects a meaningful spread in product choice. A standard hollow-core slab door in a two-panel or three-panel style — the entry-level option found in most NB builder-grade homes — costs **\$80-\$180 for the door itself** at any NB building supply outlet. Solid-core doors, which are significantly heavier, quieter, and more durable, run **\$200-\$450 per door** for standard sizes. Solid wood doors in pine, fir, or oak run **\$350-\$700 or more** per door depending on species, panel design, and whether they're pre-primed or unfinished.

Labour adds substantially to the per-door cost. Swapping a door slab in an existing, square, functioning frame — called a "slab-only" replacement — is straightforward work that a carpenter can complete in 30-60 minutes per door. That labour component typically runs **\$60-\$120 per door**. However, many door replacements in older NB homes are not straightforward. Houses built before 1970 often have non-standard rough openings, frames that have racked out of square over decades of settling, and door openings that are narrower than modern standard widths of 28, 30, or 32 inches. When a frame needs to be rebuilt or an opening needs to be modified, labour costs climb to **\$200-\$400 per door** and a structural assessment may be needed if the wall in question is load-bearing.

Pre-hung door units — where the door comes already mounted in a new frame — simplify installation when the rough opening is being reworked anyway. Pre-hung hollow-core units cost **\$120-\$250 each** while pre-hung solid-core units run **\$280-\$550 each**. Installation of a pre-hung unit takes longer than a slab swap because the frame needs to be shimmed and set plumb and square, but the finished result is a properly fitting door with correctly positioned hinges and strike plate.

Don't forget hardware when budgeting. Interior door knobs or lever handles typically run **\$30-\$80 per door** for mid-range sets; quality lever hardware with a lifetime finish warranty costs **\$80-\$200 per door**. Hinges are usually included with pre-hung units but need to be purchased separately for slab replacements — standard 3½-inch hinges run **\$8-\$20 each** and most doors need three. Adding up door, hardware, and installation for a solid-core pre-hung door with quality lever hardware lands you at roughly **\$500-\$750 per door** installed, all-in.

For a whole-house door replacement in NB, the most cost-effective approach is usually to tackle all the doors in one contractor engagement. A carpenter replacing 10 doors over two or three days will charge less per door than calling someone in for single-door jobs at different times. Get a fixed-price quote for the full scope rather than an hourly rate — it's easier to budget and holds the contractor to a defined deliverable.

Pocket doors and barn doors add cost and complexity. Pocket doors require opening the wall to install the sliding hardware and pocket frame — budget **\$600-\$1,200 per pocket door installed** in an existing wall. Sliding barn door hardware runs **\$150-\$400 for the track and hardware kit** plus the cost of the door panel itself, which is often a statement piece in reclaimed wood or glass-panel style at **\$300-\$800**.

Replacing interior door slabs is one of the more accessible DIY renovation tasks, provided the existing frames are in good shape and true. If the frame is square and the hinge mortises line up with the new slab's hinge locations, a careful homeowner with a chisel, drill, and patience can do a credible slab swap. Pre-hung installation is more demanding and benefits from two people. Any situation involving structural wall modification, load-bearing wall openings, or widening existing rough openings is firmly in professional contractor territory.

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