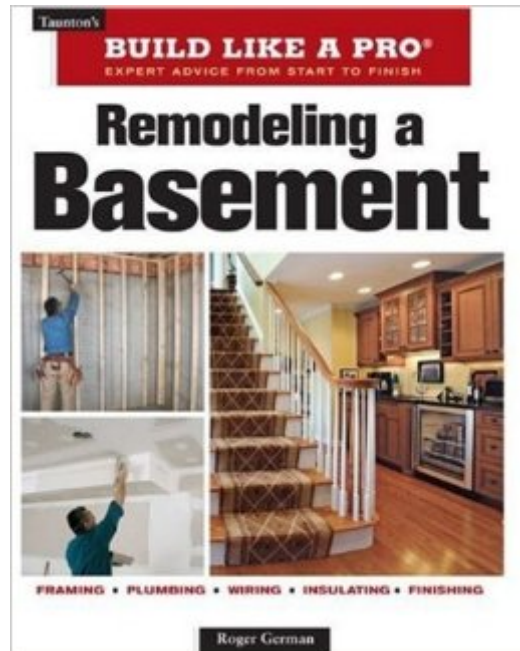


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# Remodeling A Basement: Revised Edition (Taunton's Build Like A Pro)



## Synopsis

If you're interested in expanding the usable living space in your home -- and boosting its value -- finishing your basement is a smart way to make it happen. In this new and revised edition of *Remodeling a Basement*, you'll find a wide range of inspiring design ideas for turning your basement into a comfortable, functional space the whole family can enjoy. From cover to cover, you'll get all the expert advice, inside tips, and step-by-step instructions you'll need to make your vision a reality. All brought to you in clear, accessible language -- and lots of valuable photos and drawings -- by a consummate professional. In this comprehensive volume -- the latest in our popular *Build Like A Pro* series -- professional contractor Roger German takes you through the entire process of remodeling a basement. From family rooms, bathrooms and laundry rooms to workshops and hobby rooms, he shows you how to build a whole new level of comfort into your house. Here's an example of the timely, in-depth information you'll find. Every construction detail is updated to reflect the latest building code. All the basic construction techniques you'll need are here. Nuts and bolts information about wiring, plumbing, windows and doors. Brand new content about egress windows. How to tackle common basement building challenges, like framing on concrete, evacuating water, and working around heating and plumbing fixtures. For proactive homeowners and contractors alike, this updated reference book is the only resource you'll need to get the job done right the first time.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This is not a review of the book, but I would like to point out that the information in the "Revised Edition" is up to date as of Jan 5 2010. should not link these reviews to the new edition as many of the complaints are regarding the outdated insulation practices that have since been revamped.

It's common knowledge these days that the old practice of putting wood studs and then fiberglass batts against a foundation wall and then sealing that with a plastic vapor barrier is a recipe for mold and insulation damage from condensation through the foundation wall. (see Fine Homebuilding No. 169 March 2005 p. 78, Fine Homebuilding No. 162, May 2004 p. 52, also the buildingscience dot com publications even the Dept. of Energy and HUD guidelines.) But this author recommends doing just that on pages 99 and 100. His only discussion of foam panels is in the context of using foam panels in between already constructed studs and then he complains that it is difficult to get the panels to fit between the studs. That is a silly way to use foam panels. He doesn't discuss the current recommended practice of installing the foam panels *\*first\**, up against the foundation wall, and then framing or furring strips against the foam. That is much better because then the wood is never in contact with the foundation wall and provides no food (i.e., damp wood) for mold to grow. The biggest issue with finishing a basement is doing so in a way that prevents unhealthy mold and that "oh-this-smells-like-a-basement" quality of so many basements. Wood framing against a foundation wall, with fiberglass batts keeping a moist environment, and all trapped by a plastic sheet, is a sure fire recipe for just such a brew. It makes me doubt most of the other information. Tauton Press should revise the book to reflect its own current writing on the subject.

First, let me say that I think Mr German is an excellent teacher, especially for idiot novices like myself. I've had difficulty with other DIY books assuming a certain vocabulary. German provides an excellent intro to DIY in framing, carpentry, plumbing, electrical etc. I now feel I can start reading more advanced DIY books on each of these topics. My criticism, and my reason for 4 stars, is that his story on insulation flies in the face of recent thinking about the dangers of mold in basement insulation. I suggest reading "Insulate and Weatherize" by Bruce Harley, or "Renovating Old Houses" by George Nash, or look at the buildingscience.com web site, for more information. I urge Mr German to update his book with a better discussion of insulation, mold and vapor barriers, the most mind-bending aspect of home improvement that I have been able to find. The book also talks about water-proofing on page 46-47. I haven't seen this approach elsewhere, and I'm disappointed not to see discussion of external drain mats and so on. Every book says you have to keep plants

away from the house. Well I and I suspect others can't do that and stay married, so I'll probably end up building a watertight flower box above a drain mat. This might be a good project to add to a second edition of the book.

This book has the best, most detailed guide to remodeling your basement. This is more construction guidance than design, but there is good design info as well. The book has OUTSTANDING guidance on actually taking the project on and getting it finished. The author teaches a class in basement remodeling, and this experience has clearly provided him with a wealth of ideas on how to guide the novice to intermediate builder. If you are going to do the work, you have to have this book.

I am in the middle of remodeling the basement in our new home. While I have purchased about a half a dozen books on the subject, this is without a doubt the best. The author covers every angle of remodeling from planning to painting and the color photographs are wonderful! Just one word of caution, the book seems geared more for those with newer homes. If your basement is really old, or a total disaster, I would recommend looking elsewhere for advice. For newer homes, I cannot recommend this book highly enough. Best of luck with your project!

I have a 500 sq-ft basement with an oil tank, boiler and water filtration system and wanted to turn it into livable space and partition out those items at the same time. Without ANY prior experience with putting up walls or anything like that, I looked for a good book and came across this one. It looked promising so I gave it a try and it turned out to be the perfect book. There are a lot of great photos and diagrams to accompany the instructions and it all made the project easier than I expected. I do have to admit, we had one section of our basement professionally finished prior to me starting on the other sections and while the contractor was downstairs working on it, I would periodically go downstairs to watch and learn. This book more or less enforced some of the things I saw him doing. For anyone considering a project like this for the first time, it may seem overwhelming. Getting started was the toughest part. I remember my buddy and I just staring at the basement ceiling to figure out where to start and we were just staring for the longest time. Once we got started and secured the first 2x4 we were moving fast and things began coming together much quicker than expected. It was actually fun at times too! I had the drywall professionally plastered (or mudded, whatever you want to call it) and he was the same guy that did the other section of the basement. He was very surprised with the quality of my work and has praised me several times for it especially

knowing this was my first project. Thanks to the book!

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