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More Than Half of Russians Put Off Home Renovations as Costs Rise, Survey Finds

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Semyon Likhodeev / TASS

More than half of Russians have abandoned plans to renovate their homes over the past three years, with most citing a lack of funds as the primary obstacle, according to a survey reported by the Gazeta.ru news website on Wednesday.

The poll, conducted by consulting company Verol, found that 56.3% of respondents were unable to afford home improvements despite wanting to carry them out, as the country's economic outlook has deteriorated amid the war in Ukraine.

Rising borrowing costs, higher utility tariffs and persistent inflation are forcing households to scale back discretionary spending, with home renovations emerging as one of the clearest casualties of the squeeze on real incomes.

Budget constraints were cited by 75% of respondents as the main barrier to renovations.

About a third (31.3%) pointed to uncertainty or lack of experience, while 18.8% said family opinions influenced their decision.

Russians are increasingly opting for smaller, incremental changes instead of undertaking full-scale renovations.

Around 62.5% said they had focused on buying furniture, 50% on updating finishes and 43.8% on reconfiguring living spaces.

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At the same time, 87.5% of respondents said their homes contain areas they do not use due to outdated design, inconvenient layouts or poor lighting.

Hallways and entry areas were the most commonly neglected spaces (87.5%), followed by living rooms (31.3%) and bedrooms (18.8%).

Industry data points to a broader slowdown in the home improvement sector. Foot traffic in home renovation stores fell 18% year-on-year in 2025, according to Focus Technologies.

Sales volumes declined across most categories, market research firm INFOline said.

Russians are cutting back on renovations due to high interest rates, rising utility costs and increasing prices for food and transportation, said Mikhail Vasilyev, head of research and consulting at Focus Technologies.

Labor costs have also risen sharply, further discouraging large-scale projects, according to INFOline CEO Mikhail Burmistrov.

“Three to four years ago, the cost of materials and labor was roughly split 50-50. Now it is closer to 30-70,” he said.

Prices for renovation services have climbed in recent years, with wallpaper installation costs rising about 15% in 2025, plastering up 19%, plumbing installation up 23% and electrical work up 4%, according to classifieds platform Avito.

Demand for full or major renovations has dropped significantly over the past year, said Moscow-based foreman Nikolai Efanov.

“People only have enough money to maintain their apartments — they call us in to patch or fix things locally,” he said.

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