



A GUIDE FROM CB HOMES · CUSTOM HOME BUILDING IN ALEDO, WEATHERFORD AND WEST FORT WORTH

Reviewed and approved by Dale Proctor · 11 September 2026

The order of decisions: what has to be chosen before what

Nobody tells you that choosing a bathtub is a framing decision, or that the fastest way to lose three weeks is to be undecided about one light switch. This is the order selections actually have to happen in, what each one is waiting on, and which handful can be left until late without costing anything.

Selections are usually presented as a shopping list. They are really a dependency chain: most of what you pick is holding up something that has to be built before it, and a handful of choices are holding up nothing at all.

Knowing which is which is most of the stress in a custom build.

The one rule

A decision costs nothing until something is waiting on it, and then it costs a week at a time. The expensive decisions are not the big ones. They are the small ones made late, in a stage that has already started.

Stage one — before anything is framed

These are structural. Changing them later means changing what is already built.

DECIDE	BECAUSE IT CHANGES	IF IT MOVES LATER
Where the house sits on the lot, and which way it faces	The whole site plan, the driveway, the septic field	Everything restarts
The footprint and roof shape	Engineering, trusses, the foundation itself	Re-engineering, re-permitting
Ceiling heights, and any vaulted or beamed ceiling	Wall heights, trusses, stair rise	Framing is rebuilt
Stair location and type	The framing around it, twice over	Framing is rebuilt
Fireplaces, and whether they are gas, wood or sealed	Framing, the chimney chase, the slab	Framing and roof
Bathtubs — the actual tub, not the style	Floor framing, drain placement, sometimes the slab	Plumbing is re-cut
Kitchen appliance package — sizes, fuel, venting	Cabinet dimensions, gas, electrical, the vent path	Cabinets are remade
Whether you will ever want a pool, a shop or a casita	Where utilities and the septic field go now	Trenching, sometimes the field

The two that surprise people are the tub and the appliances. Both feel like shopping and both are framing.

Stage two — before rough-in is covered

Everything in walls and ceilings, decided while they are still open.

- Every switch, outlet, and what each one controls
- Lighting locations and type — recessed, surface, pendant, exterior
- Ceiling fans, and where they are pre-blocked
- Plumbing fixture locations and heights, including shower valves and heads
- Any wall or ceiling speaker, data run, camera or panel
- Hood venting route
- Bathroom niches and benches, which are framed, not tiled-in later
- Any wall that will carry something heavy — a mirror, a rail, a mount

The test for this stage: if it lives inside a wall, it has to be decided before the wall closes. There is no second chance that does not involve cutting.

Stage three — before finishes are ordered

Long lead items. Decided by availability as much as by taste.

- Windows and exterior doors
- Cabinetry — layout, then material, then finish
- Tile, and the pattern it is set in
- Plumbing fixtures and their finish
- Interior doors and hardware
- Stair parts and railings
- Exterior material, stone and mortar color

Stage four — the ones that can wait

There is real relief in this list. None of it holds anything up if it is left until the stage has begun.

- Paint colors
- Interior light fixtures, if the boxes and switching are set
- Mirrors, shelving and closet interiors
- Landscaping and the irrigation layout
- Appliance panels and decorative hardware

How to use this before you start

Work backwards. Take the three decisions in stage one that you have the least idea about, and start those conversations now — before a schedule exists and before anything is waiting on them. That is the whole of it.

Two lines worth writing down at the start, and revisiting once:

- The decision I am most likely to change my mind about: _____
- The decision nobody has asked me about yet: _____

How we run it

Selection deadlines are generally handled conversationally rather than set as dates.

Where the decisions start depends on one thing: whether you are bringing an architect, or starting fresh with us. That decides the direction the design runs in, and so which of the stage-one decisions comes first. It is worth asking at the first meeting which of those two you are on.



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