

7 Budgeting Mistakes You're Probably Making



There's more to being an interior designer than dreaming up a beautiful home for your clients: You also must source the perfect pieces, enlist the right [vendors](#) and contractors, and execute a well-planned schedule—all while being mindful of the client's resources. Though creating, following, and [maximizing a budget](#) might seem like an easy feat, one unexpected purchase can quickly throw your finances out of whack.

Since the very last thing anyone wants to do is tell their clients they've spent too much money on a project, we tapped a handful of professionals to share the common budgeting mistakes interior designers run into and how to handle them. With any luck, their insights will help you get ahead of any financial slipups so you can focus on completing your projects in style.

Mistake 6: Having an hourly rate versus flat fee

Designer [Kristin Bartone](#) put it best when she said, “Nobody wants to send or receive a large design bill mid-way through the project.” Although quoting an hourly rate can elicit less sticker shock—not to mention [set boundaries with clients](#)—sending a flat fee will ensure that everyone knows exactly where their money is going. “The number will be higher than looking at an hourly rate, but it’s much better to know the fees before getting started,” she adds. “A flat fee is also an indicator that your designer has adequate experience to understand what it takes to complete the project.”

If you’ve historically charged an hourly rate—and would like to continue to do so—multiply your fee by the number of hours you’ve typically spent on a project of a similar size and scope. That way, you can keep your policies in check without surprising your clients.