

# MEET YOUR PROFESSIONAL

## Homeowners: Avoid Renovation Nightmares!

If you are considering a renovation you need to read this!

When you hire a contractor to work on your home, you need to be protected from a number of risks. These fall into two general categories:

- Risks related to poor work or dishonesty by the contractor, and
- Risks related to accidents that cause damage to property or injure someone.

The best protection from risk is to hire a contractor with a solid reputation for doing good work, and having a comprehensive written contract in place before the work begins.

Some consumers choose to deal with "underground" contractors who charge less, but only work for cash and do not provide a written contract. When homeowners hire

an underground contractor for cash and without a contract, bad things can happen. In the vast majority of cases where there are problems, the homeowners lose their money and have to live with the frustration of paying another contractor to complete the work properly.

However, sometimes things can get far more serious. For example, the parties can end up in court. Or the homeowner can face fines and legal actions initiated by government agencies. As well, each year there are a number of homeowners who become victims of contractor fraud, often losing significant amounts of money.

Many consumers are uncertain about how to find and hire a contractor. The good news is that you don't need to be an expert in construction to do this successfully. What you do need is a general understanding of how the contracting

business works and how to manage the hiring process. You also need to understand that your working relationship with a contractor will have considerable influence on your overall satisfaction. Good working relationships are a key factor in successful projects.

Please note that the information presented here is quite general and that every situation is different, so use it as a guide only. In general, the process of hiring a contractor involves seven steps before you begin work!

Step One: Determine what type of contractor you need

Step Two: Locate contractors

Step Three: Interview contractors

Step Four: Check references

Step Five: Get bids

Step Six: Get it in Writing

Step Seven: Make necessary changes to a contract

For more information on each of these steps and more go to:

[www.HiringAContractor.com](http://www.HiringAContractor.com)

[www.chba.ca](http://www.chba.ca)

[www.myhomereno.com](http://www.myhomereno.com)

For local contractors contact those on this page and for more companies visit [www.chbafv.com](http://www.chbafv.com) for a complete list of members and more information about the Canadian Home Builders' Association of the Fraser Valley.



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