

New Hire A Pro Searchable Database – for your next Hired Professional Contractor!

If you visited a dozen websites and read hundreds of reviews just to decide on which toaster oven to purchase, then how about when it comes time to select a homebuilding-related contractor? That contractor will be doing a significant amount of work to your biggest investment: your home. So, choosing the right one is a paramount decision.

Fortunately, Olympia Master Builders has taken the leg work out of the process for you and is now offering an easy to use, one click quote request, Hire A Pro tool on their newly redesign website at omb.org.

OMB is a reputable professional trade association representing companies located throughout Thurston, Lewis, Grays Harbor, Mason and Pacific Counties since 1959. OMB has over 450 active members, who come from all sectors of the building trades ranging from homebuilders, remodelers, plumbers and electricians to bankers and cleaners.

OMB's Executive Officer, Angela White adds, "When joining Olympia Master Builders members are agreeing to abide by the Association bylaws and code of ethics. By doing so, they are demonstrating pride in their profession to the public and to others in the industry. Members must hold requisite business licenses, and registration upon joining, and they are formally approved by the OMB Board of Directors. Though we still always advise home owners to check with Labor and Industries as part of your due diligence before hiring."

So, you can rest assured that your next hired professional contractor from omb.org is one that you can trust.

Here is how the OMB Hire A Pro online searchable directory works:

1. Consumers from the public access the searchable online directory from the "**Hire A Pro**" tab or button on the omb.org home page.
2. At that point, choose a business category such as cleaners, painting or remodeler, which pulls up all members listed in that category.
3. At the top of the listings, there is a link called "**Contact These Businesses**" which allows consumers to put in their contact information, as well as their project details. They may also choose to send the quote request to the entire list or select specific members listed to contact.
4. The quote request is then generated out via email to OMB members. **It's as simple as that!**

Here are some additional guidelines to keep in mind to round out the contractor hiring process:

References

- **Always contact Washington State Department of Labor & Industries** to make sure a contractor is registered, actively licensed, and has a bond and insurance.
- Check the Better Business Bureau, www.bbb.org, to ensure the business doesn't have any unresolved complaints.

- Ask the contractor for references for past work and be sure the references can be reached.

Price and payment

- Don't get pressured into signing a contract immediately. You should not be told that you need to sign a contract that day or risk a price increase.
- Paying a deposit of anywhere from 20 percent to 50 percent is common, however, you should not be asked to pay the full cost in advance, before work begins.

Contract and completion

- Be cautious of anyone that tells you that "a contract won't be necessary." Insist on a complete and clearly written contract signed by you and the contractor.
- Ensure that the final payment is not due until the job is completely finished and you are fully satisfied with it. Find out if any of the work requires city or county inspection, and make sure that is done and you have paperwork to prove it before you make the final payment.

Visit omb.org Hire A Pro searchable membership database for all of your homebuilding-related needs!