

LEWIS COUNTY CHAPTER OF OLYMPIA MASTER BUILDERS



How to Find an Honest Contractor



Lewis County Chapter Meetings

Please join us for our next monthly OMB Lewis County Chapter meeting on the third Wednesday of each month at the Moose Lodge. For more information contact Jenn at membership@omb.org or visit omb.org/chapters/lewis-county. Non-members welcome.

Severe weather may be approaching with the arrival of the winter months. If Mother Nature damages your home, you may need to call a professional for help. Unfortunately, not all professionals are looking out for a homeowner's best interest. After natural or man-made disasters, unscrupulous contractors try to profit from a community's misfortune.

You may not be able to stop unexpected damage to your home, but a fly-by-night contractor is one disaster you can prevent. You can take a few

simple steps to ensure you hire a reputable professional. You can follow these guidelines when evaluating any potential contractor, whether for post-disaster repairs or a planned renovation to your home.

Here are some guidelines to keep in mind:

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 typical; however, you

should not be asked to pay the full cost in advance before work begins.

Make sure you're comfortable with the payment options. You should not be asked to pay cash to a salesperson instead of a check, money order or credit card.

References

Confirm that the contractor has a verifiable mailing address for their business.

Check the WA Department of Labor and Industries to ensure the business has no unresolved complaints.

Ask the contractor to

provide references for past work and be sure the references can be reached.

Check out the business on consumer review sites such as HomeAdvisor, Houzz, etc. Remember to take the good with the bad when reading online reviews.

Contract and Completion

Be cautious of anyone who tells you that "a contract won't be necessary." Insist on a complete and clearly written contract signed by you and the contractor.

Ensure the final payment is due once the job is completely finished and you are satisfied. Find out if any of the work requires city or county inspection, confirm that it has been done and that you have paperwork proving it, before making the final payment.

Following these guidelines will help you select a contractor who will do quality work and stand behind it. To learn more about finding a reliable contractor with an established business in our community, visit omb.org today.

Lewis County Government Affairs Update:

Chehalis Update

Become a city decision-maker. The City of Chehalis is looking to fill vacancies on both the Planning Commission and the City Council. You must live in the city limits (and in District 1 for the position) for a year prior to becoming a city council member, but no such restriction exists for the Planning Commission. In fact, if you want to learn more about a role on the council, the Planning Commission is a great way to start. However, if you

feel you're ready, apply for that city council position. You can make an impact for the future of affordable housing at every economic level in the City of Chehalis.

Planning Commission Application (Deadline January 24th) can be found at: <https://www.ci.chehalis.wa.us/bc-pc/planning-commission-vacancy>

City Council Application (Deadline January 11th) can be found at: <https://www.ci.chehalis.wa.us/citycouncil/city-council-vacancy-district-1>

wa.us/citycouncil/city-council-vacancy-district-1

Centralia Update

2025 Comprehensive Plan Update. The development of the 2025 Comprehensive Plan will describe the 20-year vision for the City of Centralia and how that vision will be accomplished from now to 2045. The Plan develops goals, policies, and implementation strategies that guide the community-driven vision. The Plan will include elements that discuss land use,

housing, economic development, environment, historic preservation, transportation, public facilities, utilities, capital facilities, parks, recreation, and open space.

Get Involved

The development of a successful comprehensive plan is when it reflects a wide variety of views and reflects the values of the entire city and its Urban Growth Area (UGA). The vision, goals, and policies should

reflect the entire community of those who reside, work, and play in Centralia. The plan needs to be inclusive and reach out to everyone and that means YOU.

Find out more at: <https://www.cityofcentralia.com/563/2025-Comprehensive-Plan-Update>

For more information, contact Olympia master Builders Government Affairs Director at ga@omb.org or (360)754-0912 (ext. 102).

Welcome to Our Newest OMB Lewis County Members:



Dowers Power Wash, Exterior Painting
www.dowerspowerwash.com
Centralia, WA 98531 • 360-915-2493

Projects by Piper • www.projectsbypiper.net
321 Highway 603, Chehalis, WA 98532
bids@projectsbypiper.com • 360-523-8702



Big Home & Remodel Show Vendor Registration Coming Soon!

The OMB Big Home and Remodel Show is scheduled for April 20-21, 2024, at Saint Martin University's Marcus Pavilion

Would you like to have an exhibit in the show? We'd love to have you!

Our event typically sees an average of 2,000 customers over the course of the weekend.

It's a great opportunity for our local businesses to showcase themselves and to connect with potential customers.

Registration for returning vendors will open in January 2024, and for new vendors at the start of February. Stay tuned for more details and a registration link! OMB members get a 20% booth discount, but you do not need to be a member to participate.

If you would like to be a vendor or a sponsor for this event, contact Jenn at membership@omb.org or 360.754.0912.

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