

# LEWIS COUNTY CHAPTER OF OLYMPIA MASTER BUILDERS



## Don't Try This at Home: DIY Mistakes to Avoid



Summer is here, so you might be motivated to tackle a household project that you've been avoiding all year long. Regular household chores, such as changing air filters or replacing lightbulbs, are low-cost and easy ways to keep your home running optimally. If you're preparing to take on a bigger project, you may want to take an honest assessment of what you can accomplish or if you should hire a professional remodeler. Poorly executed 'do-it-yourself' projects can not only damage your home, but depending on the task, you can put yourself at a safety risk. Before you dive into your next DIY project, consider the following.

### Budgeting

Home projects can really add up if you avoid mapping out all the materials, tools, and equipment needed to complete your project. If you are not a home remodeling professional, chances are you will not purchase exactly everything you need the first time you go shopping. A good rule of thumb is to budget for at least a 10 percent overage for project materials.

### Permits

Adding a wall or a deck? You might need a permit to complete your project. If you are not sure, contact your local city hall. Not all permits are

intended to drain your home remodeling budget or serve as a roadblock to building; in many cases, they are designed to ensure the job is done correctly. Failing to take this step can result in negative consequences, such as being ordered by the city to cease work and incurring substantial fines. Professional remodelers are knowledgeable about the permitting process.

### Tools and Equipment

If you're a homeowner, you likely have at least one tool to manage small home repairs. New home projects may require specialized tools or equipment outside of your usual toolbox. Specific

tools can make a significant difference in making the job easier, safer, and preventing damage to your home. Some specialized equipment can be costly for a single use. Hardware stores often have tools available for rent but be sure to know how to use them properly to avoid injuring yourself or damaging your home.

### Materials and Measurements

One of the attractive aspects of DIY projects is the ability to save money on labor costs. Should you also save money on materials? The cheaper option when buying materials for your

home may not always be the best one. Installing or replacing materials with flimsy or ill-fitting items that have not been measured correctly can result in higher costs in the long run. If you work with a professional remodeler, they will be able to recommend the most cost-effective materials to complete your project.

Completing a home project can be rewarding, whether you do it with careful preparation or with the right contractor. To learn more, visit omb.org for a searchable directory of qualified contractors in Lewis County.

## OMB Industry Advocacy Update for Lewis County

### Lewis County

**Planning Commission Meeting – July 22, 2025, 6pm**  
Where: Community Development & Environmental Health Building, 125 NW Chehalis Ave, Chehalis, and via Zoom.  
Agenda: Rezoning proposals, subdivision and code amendments affecting multiple communities—from Chehalis and Centralia to Napavine, Vader, Winlock, Morton and beyond. Citizens may submit written comments (via email to Mindy Brooks) and offer oral testimony.  
How to Engage: Agendas available ahead on the County

calendar; subscribe for updates. Written testimony should be sent before the meeting; Zoom info is included in the agenda packet online.

### Public Works Bids

Ongoing solicitations for infrastructure across Lewis County include road improvements, sewer and water projects in cities like Toledo, Vader, Morton, Centralia and rural areas. Contractors and suppliers can monitor postings via the County's OpenGov/MRSC portal and reach out to the Contract Administrator at pwcontractadmin@

lewiscountywa.gov or (360) 740-1182.

### City of Chehalis

**Imagine Downtown Chehalis Master Plan Adoption**  
In April 2025, the City Council approved the multi-year revitalization of historic downtown—including enhancements to sidewalks, traffic flow, lighting, and street safety.  
Ongoing Opportunities: Builders and tradespeople should watch for implementation contracts tied to improvements on Market and Boistfort Avenues, as the city begins initial phases.

**Parks Improvements**  
Grant-funded upgrades totaled \$100,000 via the RCO for restroom renovations at Recreation Park Complex (Shaw Aquatics Center, Spray Park, Stan Hedwall)—planning and bid postings expected in mid-summer 2025.

### City of Centralia

**Comprehensive Plan Update Workshop**  
Centralia is finalizing its 2025 Comprehensive Plan, setting growth policy through 2045 under WA Growth Management Act. Public workshops and hearings will be scheduled

this summer—watch Centralia's Planning Commission web pages.

### State-Level

**WSATC Apprenticeship Meetings – Tumwater July 16 (Wed):**  
**Subcommittee sessions**  
July 17 (Thu): Quarterly Apprenticeship & Training Council meeting, 9 am–5 pm at L&I office, 7273 Linderson Way SW, Tumwater  
Relevance: Stakeholders can testify on training standards, retention, compliance, and regional workforce needs.

## Top 10 Remodeling Terms You Need to Know

If you are remodeling your home for the first time, the process may seem daunting. A professional remodeler can guide you through the process and provide expert insights on how the project will be completed. Professional remodelers, like

other industries, use specific terminology when discussing the nature of your project. Understanding the lingo can help ensure you get the finished project you want and avoid miscommunication with your contractor. To help you decipher the language of

your remodeling project, this glossary of the top ten common terms will navigate the remodeling process smoothly.

**Allowance:** A specific dollar amount allocated by a contractor for specified items in a contract for which the brand, model number, color, size or other details are not yet known.

**Bid:** A proposal to work for a certain amount of money, based on plans and specifications for the project.

**Building Permit:** A document issued by a governing authority, such as a city or county building department, granting permission to undertake a construction project.

**Call-back:** An informal term for a return visit by the contractor to repair or replace

items the homeowner has found to be unsatisfactory or that require service under the warranty.

**Certified Aging-in-Place Specialist (CAPS):** CAPS professionals have learned strategies and techniques to meet the home modification needs of homeowners who want to continue living in their homes safely, independently and comfortably regardless of age or ability level. CAPS graduates pledge to uphold a code of ethics and are required to maintain their designation by attending education programs and participating in community service.

**Change Order:** This is written authorization from the contractor to make a change or addition to the work described in the original contract. The change order should reflect any changes in cost.

**Cost-plus Contract:** A contract between a contractor and homeowner that is based on the accrued cost of labor and materials plus a percentage for profit and overhead — also known as a time-and-materials contract.

**Draw:** A designated payment that is "drawn" from the total project budget to pay for services completed to date. A draw schedule is typically established in the contract.

**Plans and Specifications:** These are drawings for the project, and a detailed list or description of the known products, materials, quantities, and finishes to be used.

**Punch List:** A list of work items to be completed or corrected by the contractor, typically near or at the end of a project.

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