



Residential Construction industry offers up a FREE Renovation Seminar!



Janice Kochan, President
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Across the country, the Canadian Home Builder's Association will be promoting October as Renovation Month and our region will be supporting it as well. The Waterloo Region Home Builder's Association (WRHBA) represents the professional renovation industry locally through its RenoMark program, and as such, WRHBA in conjunction with Conestoga College, Home Hardware and other industry partners is pleased to present an upcoming free renovation seminar entitled Go with a Pro.

The seminar is scheduled for Saturday, October 30, 2010 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Conestoga College's, ROOFING CENTRE located at 108 University Avenue East in Waterloo. Homeowners will gain knowledge and information on how to have a successful renovation and will have the opportunity to get their questions answered in person. Campus tours, trade displays, refreshments, and a chance to WIN one of two free design consultations with a professional RenoMark™ renovator are also available.

RenoMark is a voluntary program for renovator companies wishing to adhere to a higher set of standards such as a code of conduct, warranties, liability insurance, understand and highly value customer service and satisfaction both during and following the renovation, and who are constantly exposed to information on current trends, the latest materials and new regulations. The RenoMark™ program was developed to provide homeowners with a benchmark to evaluate professional standards of renovation bring credibility to member renovators within the industry and provide a website for homeowners renovation needs. Learn more at www.renomark.ca/waterloo

If you are thinking about taking on a home renovation project, here are the top 3 questions to ask yourself:

Do I need a professional renovator?

Yes, you will need someone with experience and skill, like a professional RenoMark member. With a professional, they are equipped with all the business tools to protect your interests such as a written contract, insurance, and workers' compensation.

You can save money by completing the work yourself; however, unless you have some home renovation/builder skill set behind you this may not be case. The contractor is the one responsible for managing the project from start to finish and completing in a timely manner. A professional will always recommend getting all the necessary permits and inspections and will usually look after this on your behalf. On resale, potential buyers may want to know about the renovations on your house, including whether you did have permits. What a professional renovator or designer brings is a wealth of experience and knowledge and can offer you ideas and suggestions, large and small, adding extra value and living enjoyment to your home.

Waterloo Region Home Builders' Association

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, OR TO ARRANGE AN INTERVIEW CONTACT:

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Will a professional renovator be able to give me a good idea of a price right away?

For a simple project, the renovator may well be able to provide a 'ball park' estimate. However, for a more complex job, where structural issues may be involved, the total costs will depend on material, permits and the finishing choice you have yet to make. Being prepared with a more detailed plan in advance will help to make the quotations more realistic.

Should I get at least three bids?

Getting a large number of bids provides no assurance that things will work out the way you want them to. Who you get bids from is far more important than how many you collect. When interviewing professional renovators take into account their experience and qualifications that best match your project as well as the personal fit between you and the renovator. Then decide who to ask for detailed quotes. Extra costs are usually due to extra work that was not included in the original quote. Always be ready for the unexpected, add 10-15% contingency fund to the budget, just in case plans change.

When the work is done well and professionally, you can look forward to low-maintenance living. Remember to arrange for annual check-ups, service calls, and seasonal upkeep. With your home being one of your biggest investments, it makes sense to protect it.

To learn more about the free renovation seminar and the RenoMark program including a listing of local area participating renovation companies visit www.renomark.ca/waterloo.

Visit www.wrhba.com for further association information.

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