



Finding a Professional Renovator



Steven Harris,
WRHBA President 2014-15

October is Renovation Month! Part two of the Waterloo Region Home Builders' Association's (WRHBA) renovation month series discusses how to find the perfect renovator for your project.

Finding the right renovator is key to getting the results you want. The sooner you get a professional involved, the more you can benefit from their knowledge and expertise. With a little legwork, you should have no trouble finding the company that is best suited for your project.

Contact the Waterloo Region Home Builders' Association. Membership in a local Home Builders' Association is a solid indication of professionalism. Members have access to training and the latest information on all aspects of renovation. They also agree to adhere voluntarily to the Association's Code of Ethics, which sets out a framework for fair and honest business practices.

Associations cannot make recommendations about a specific company, but will gladly provide you with a list of members who may be suitable for your project. You can also go online www.wrhiba.com and check the websites of individual renovator members.

At WRHBA, many renovation companies belong to the **RenoMark™ program** www.renomark.ca. Members of the program have to agree to abide by a special renovation code of conduct.

Ask around for recommendations. Often renovators do little, if any, formal advertising because "word of mouth" keeps them busy. Ask friends, family, co-workers and neighbours who have had work done recently. Look around your neighbourhood for projects in progress and talk with the homeowners. Most people are happy to talk about their own renovation experiences and tell you what they think about their contractor.

Visit home shows. Home shows offer a great opportunity to check out some of your local renovation contractors. Take a look at their displays and get into conversations to get a sense of the company and its services. If your initial impression is positive, add the company to your list of prospective renovators, for later contact and in-depth discussion.

Check advertising. You can also look in your local newspapers for ads by renovation companies, review flyers that come to your door, check local building material stores for business cards or brochures, and browse the internet to see what companies might be working in your area. When contacting renovators you have identified through their advertising and web listings, ask lots of questions, and make sure you

Waterloo Region Home Builders' Association

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investigate the company thoroughly before making any decisions about hiring. Anyone or any business can advertise, but it's up to you the consumer to do enough research to be fully aware of who you may be dealing with.

Renovate with confidence. Investing a little time upfront finding the right renovator is well worth your time. When you begin with a list of professional renovators, the next steps are easy—interviewing, checking credentials and hiring the company that's right for your project.

Visit www.wrhba.com and www.renomark.ca for a listing of professional renovators who can help you achieve your renovation dreams – without the nightmares!

Since 1946, the Waterloo Region Home Builders' Association (WRHBA) has been "the voice of residential development and construction industry"—one of the most vital and enterprising industries in Canada. WRHBA represents over 220 member companies comprised of all disciplines involved in residential construction. WRHBA is built on a vision to be a leader in supporting our industry by fostering a vital membership through advocacy, resource sharing and education and in its commitment to improve new housing affordability and choice for new home purchasers and renovation consumers through positively impacting legislation, regulation and policy that affect the industry at all levels of government.

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