

Second Edition - 2021

Home: The Best Wonder Of The World!

*References Appear At End Of This Guide

Preview

In this guide, we are going to consider more intently the significance of where we are. A hotel, motel, or someone else's place is where we may stay, but *home* is where we *live*. Here is where we do our very best within our means of affordability to maximize our comforts and conveniences in life. Although many of us have vocations which often entail frequent travel to other geographic areas, our most preferred place to get a significant breather from it all is none other than *home*. But even if our work takes us only a few miles away, there is nothing quite like our own surroundings. For sure, home is the best wonder of the world!

Predictability Of Home Maintenance & Improvement Needs

Yet, like with any other private home, there is never a time when one thing or another does not have to be attended to. Among the *predictable* of private home living are the physical demands for continuous maintenance and occasional renovations and improvements. And, of course, it goes without saying that in order for us to continually enjoy the comforts and conveniences of home it is imperative that we keep it well maintained and occasionally authorize a few improvements. In other words, it is not simply having the home which guarantees all these wonderful benefits. Instead, it is also proactively caring about the condition of our homes to the point of always doing what is reasonably necessary to that effect. After all, our homes are not "self-maintaining and improving."

Therefore, the obvious reasoning behind it all is that if we expect the home setting to continually *take care of us*, there is the basic requirement for us to likewise *take care of it*. Evidently, what we are referring to is a very general principle towards conscientiously benefiting from virtually anything in life.

In order to achieve benefits specific to what we would like to achieve, it is always imperative that we do what is specifically required to that end.

Often that entails a series of things which work together toward realizing our target objective or a series of these. It follows that, when we neglect or reject doing those things with respect to the specifics of what we would like to accomplish, odds are increasingly stacked against us for influencing their materialization. Subsequently, in this special guide, we are really going to emphasize this pivotal factor in our decision-making with regard to hiring and selecting home improvement contractors.

Avoid Weakness Of Blind Trust

It is obvious that this is with reference to how we approach authorizing our special contractor-related home maintenance and improvement projects. Many residents put on airs of knowing better than to select and hire contractors without first validating their legal credentials as well as their reliability and efficiency in terms of delivery. However, it is easy to become lax in doing these things. Perhaps upwards to 90% of residents who become unfortunate victims were in the beginning very firm about their expectations. Yet some way along the line they lowered their guard. Why? The reason which appears most prominent is that they *began to trust* the contractors. This fact is not more evidenced than by when we listen to what these victims say as they are being interviewed by news reporters, or when they share their tragic news via social networks. No one has apparently ever said “*I didn’t trust him but I gave him a chance anyway.*” What do we normally hear, instead? We hear variations of deep expressions of *trust*. These are normally followed by a myriad of *reasonable* explanations. However, practically all excuses are premised on one basic reason which is summarized in a single sentence:

They lowered their guard and began to trust someone they did not first thoroughly check out.

We can safely infer that they did not operate using an intact preventative system. If they had one, they did not use it. If they KNEW BETTER, unfortunately, they did not DO BETTER.

Through these guides there are quite a few things we can learn. There are sound preventative measures we may want to take. But they will be useless if we become too relaxed to use them. We invest so much time in mastering theoretical bases but we forego the practice. This may not be such a safe idea. In these guides, we are considering intact practice or protocol which enables us to exercise the sort of formidability we need for *not trusting* contractors we are not familiar with. The *familiarity* about which we speak concerns more than having seen him/her around a few times. [These details will be considered later on in this guide.]

What We Think, Say, And Do Must Match

There are far too many residents thinking, saying, and doing things which do not complement each other. Invariably, what normally happens is that they find themselves in situations which *do not match* what they set out to do. Classic to this is the embarrassment of bragging about knowing better but doing nothing in relation to prove we *really* know anything. This nature of “mismatched” behavior normally leads to getting *contrary* to what they hoped ... if anything. Their thoughts, words, and deeds were not in agreement. Therefore, their home project results were not compatible with what they hoped to achieve. This may very well serve as a signal for us to be conscientious about ensuring that our actions match what we are thinking and saying about doing the necessary validations.

Be Results-Oriented

For our ultimate benefit, let us always be aware of how crucial it is for us to harness doing only those things which match or exceed the expectations of our contractor-related objectives. For sure, what we would like to accomplish have the best chances for materialization when we are personally engaged with ensuring they are accomplished. Invariably, when we want/need a specific result then it becomes most essential for us to do those things which are consistent with that.

We may not want to be like many of our private home heads who hope for contractor-related home project success but do not initiate the required guided effort during the time demanded for achieving the required end. They put forth no favorably measured effort to achieve the desired effect.

In other words, they scarcely, if ever, premise their decisions on solid, viewable, and recently validated information on contractor candidates. This is not what we consider being “results-oriented.” Instead, this is being “results-hopeful” in that we base our decisions on the *hope* that the contractors we select will not betray us rather than on *documented evidence* to the effect that they will deliver.

In these cases, we have no reputable documentation to enable us to *know* rather than to *hope* we will get the results we anticipate. Furthermore, what is sadly ironic is that in situations where we were inevitably betrayed it was apparently because of a crucial lack in personal readiness, willingness, and ability to obtain information which would enable us to properly assess the nature of our decisions. It is evidenced time and again that this sort of *self-imposed defenselessness* has resulted in many of us being tormented by the ramifications.

Validate FIRST

We may want to always enforce our priorities for successfully implementing our reputation checks on contractors FIRST. In our vernacular, these are known as “proper service validations.” Both the contractor and the service(s) offered must FIRST be “validated.

We seal this managerial responsibility we have through devoting time sufficient to personally do the proper service validations or to delegate to trustworthy assistants. We require something more substantial than what contractors say about themselves and their work ethic. We need documentation and favorable residential references before coming to a reasonable conclusion as to if whether or not they are dedicated and honest enough for our purposes. We want what we think, say, and do to be complementary. Otherwise the decision we make has far less chance of being a conducive one.

Be The “Wise”

The famous Scottish author and poet, *Tobias Smollet* (1700’s) is noted for saying:

“Some folks are wise and others are otherwise.”

Here we are, 300 years into the future, and that profound saying is still true. A significant interpretation of that has very much to do with the fact that some people *will do* what is right for ourselves while others *will not*. The latter is obviously *Tobias’* “otherwise” (as in “*other than wise*”).

Subsequently, we may want to consider being the *wise* instead. This requires us to proactively put forth a conscientious effort to consider making a few serious changes to our approach. Of course this means changes or improvements in our methodology for scouting, selecting, hiring, and paying contractors. These are all factors of resident-contractor relations with regard to matters of home maintenance and improvement. Here is an illustration to that effect:

A True Story

A while back, reportedly, there were a couple contractors arrested in **Broome County, NY**. They were charged with several counts of first degree grand larceny for a single case of home improvement fraud. Reportedly, a private home decision maker took the gamble and paid them advance money on the promise that they would perform the home project he had lined up. He made this deal without FIRST conducting a proper reputation check/service validation.

Although this report was non-specific with respect to what that project entailed, as we read *into* the situation, what was called a “home improvement project” was very likely a series of them wrapped into one. But for brevity’s sake, it is because these contractors were not first *validated* (another term for having been “*thoroughly checked out*”), that they successfully conned thousands of dollars out him for a project which they reportedly never completed.

Yet how could something like this happen? How could these people, just on the strength of looking and sounding good enough, manage to do something like this? Would you like the simple answer?

They managed to do something like this because the private home decision maker managed to be insufficiently informed and connected. This is what made him sufficiently gullible to forego thoroughly checking them out.

Quite mysteriously, however, if we were previously unaware of this event, we may surmise that this was done by a couple of mischievous fellows. Normally, there is the male stereotype about contractors. However, most are. But not these. We are referring to a *married couple*. The least likely suspects! Sympathetically, there is just something about the mix of a man and a woman actually married and working together. Naturally, perception is of a man and woman so deeply in love that they even work together to help make ends meet. There is a general condescending delusion of innocence and trustworthiness. This inspires others to really want to sentimentally reach out and support the *sanctity of their love*. We find then that the predictable result for the resident being overly sweet about the relationship caused him to completely neglect doing the necessary reputation check. Who would think that such a loving, devotedly married couple could possibly be detrimental people? The couple did not get around to delivering the project. However, they did accomplish delivering to *themselves* a seamless con job to the tune of approximately \$45,000.

Summary

All things considered, it may be great to always be on guard against being deceived in this way. Your best defense is to regularly ask yourself these questions about the people you may interview for your home improvement project:

Who are they? What are they? Are they the right fit for me?

When it comes to your home and your land, it is most certainly your business to know.
VALIDATE!

HELPFUL REFERENCES

Husband-Wife Team Were Scandalous Tradespersons

<https://www.pressconnects.com/story/news/public-safety/2016/02/25/husband-wife-contractors-arrested-48k-theft/80943026/>

Note: the 48K of the story's headline is typo as we note in the actual report.]

***Invitation:** HGRBS offers several free online home study courses which can enable us to make safer and wiser decisions about home improvement contractors. Yet for any of these to work for us it is crucial that we invest the interest, time, and attention required. Like any other useful information, in order for *IT* to *WORK* for *US*, we may want to *USE* what we *LEARN* to *MAKE* it. Good Luck!

Please visit [*Resident Strategic Studies*](#). We will find descriptions and links to other HGRBS free online strategic study guides.

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