

Re-Issue - 2021

Top Homeowners Routinely Avoid These 2 Hiring Mistakes

*References Appear At End Of This Guide

Preview

In every neighborhood there are those who occasionally use contractors for special projects. Notwithstanding the fact that among some there are regulars who attend to the lawn and garden. Even some for ground-level snow removal wherever, whenever applicable.

Another commonality in the neighborhood: diversity of approach. Everyone does not have contractors to regularly attend to our lawns and gardens - or home cleaning. Some are hardcore do-it-yourself. Normally that is more a matter of choice - or necessity. It may be important to note also whether we are financially more stable or among the least, we occasionally require individuals more skilled than we for special projects i.e., appliances, driveway repave, window replacement, etc.

Typically, it is in the area of our special home projects or those which are outside our personal norm, where we face the greatest challenges. This is particularly so when it comes to our personal standards for hiring required contractor assistance. Neighbors with the highest standards for deciding wisely in this regard, evidently avoid making hiring mistakes most others do. Subsequently, it is not unfair to honor these among us as *top homeowners* in the related decision-making process.

Deciphering The 2 Leading Mistakes

In this guide, we encompass *2 leading mistakes* top homeowners usually avoid in resident-contractor relations. Although the first mistake mentioned i.e. *Mistake 1*, is shared once in its respective sub-heading in this guide, the second, *Mistake 2*, is subdivided into 3 sections, 'A,' 'B,' and 'C.' It is split in this way to facilitate ease-of-reading since content is very long by comparison to that of sub-heading *Mistake 1*. This coverage can:

1. Reinforce the hiring competence of those who customarily make best decisions.
2. Inspire those who have weaker protocol towards likewise excelling in this area.

It can suffice to mention there is no closed door to private home heads who are not as informed as only a small percentage of others are. Through consciously realizing and cultivating our *need* to be as diligent learning more about protecting our interests as we are about protecting our gardens from weeds, we can be in that exclusive number as well. We make it happen.

Mistake 1 - Relying Only On What Contractors *Appear To Be*

Foremost, we can reasonably grant the fact that even the best among us, in anything, make mistakes. All inclusive are private home heads who are among most prudent in resident-contractor relations. Even the late Muhammad Ali, world renowned greatest boxer in the world, lost a few. Each of those losses can be attributable, in large degree, to mis-gauging the stamina and tactics of his opponent. Still, the record stands above all others in the world of heavy-weight boxing - 56:5 - [56 wins, 5 losses]. No boxer has thus far beaten this extraordinary record. He is indeed the documented 'greatest,' but he is joined by a string of 'greats' in multiple weight divisions presently and throughout modern history.

Quite obviously *greatness* in multiple realms among humanity is always attributable to *only a small group*. Most individuals never achieve these levels of excellence in any specialized areas whether we strive to or are pretentious. This is likewise attributable among private home decision makers in America in resident-contractor relations - only a minute group. Yet something else common in this realm of only a fraction of the multitudes - the passion for learning everything necessary for achieving favorable outcomes. Add to that - implementation i.e. effective use of what we learn in order to resort to most appropriate action.

Needless to say, hiring tradespersonnel [like contractors] without *owning* all information we require to make unhazardous decisions is not what we can reasonably call a *winner's approach*. Unfortunately, most residents documented as having been victims of home fraud erroneously practiced this *bad move*.

We may want to avoid the crowd and continue working on doing better than that.

We can start by staying focused on what we want to accomplish and being willing devote adequate time to discovering *who's who* in contracting best suited for the project we have in mind. We may not want to settle for their business cards or polity, alone. These do not tell us about their competence and reliability - muchless, about habits they may have which we certainly do not need on our property e.g. defrauding homeowners.

Mistake 2 [A] - Blind Trust In *Third-Party* Referrals

Clearly, in matters of resident-contractor relations, the primary parties as indicated are *resident* and *contractor*. Whether our project fails or succeeds, this is overwhelmingly determined by the quality of the business relationship between *only* these two parties. Anyone one outside this relationship is considered a third party.

Subsequently, when contractors are referred to us, this is regarded as *third party* involvement. Whether it entails a friend, associate, or business, it is a recommendation made by persons who are not *determining factors* towards our project outcome. It follows that they have absolutely no accountability for the decision we make hiring contractors recommended by the same.

Yet we can falter terribly assuming that just because we are on great terms with a person or business that either would not make a recommendation detrimental to us. In other words, we can be easily swayed to believe the suggestion we receive is from a trustworthy source. But what does that have to do with the honesty and integrity of those endorsed? This is a pressing question asked by top homeowners.

Rarely do private home heads who enjoy series' of successful contractor-related projects go by third party references, alone. These among us require immensely more. What is their track record? Where are they from? Are they from out of state? Do they have rapport with most residents they have worked for?

Lots of key questions are asked among the best decision makers in this regard - and we diligently gather relevant answers. On these, pivotal decisions are made.

Frankly, the majority of the best decision makers among us - do not use contractor referral services for special projects. The apparent reason - they are the *least* among reliable sources for best contractor assistance. The best private home decision makers deal *directly* with contractors who are known and well-established in the area. Such building trades outfits have scores of *confirmed* satisfied residents. Just ask around. Their customers who recommend them are usually living proof to their reliability. Unlike online testimonials which are easily fabricated, our *evidence* is first-hand.

Mistake 2 [B] – Blind Trust In *Third-Party* Referrals

Since in nowadays, we are more inclined to use the internet 'shopping' for contractor assistance, we can be tempted by online third party advertising. Among the biggest entrapments are online *contractor referral agencies*.

It is surprising to know that an untold number of residents are not that privy to the dangers of third party referrals which originate online. More specifically: contractor referral agencies.

In some circles, these appear as *largely* comprised of a smorgasbord of inept home maintenance and improvement contractors. Few among them are actually competent.

Let us touch on the fact that wherever there are people, there are contractor referral agencies. Further the *virtual* presence of people online is no exception to that rule. In fact, it may not be delusional believing that more residents are beguiled per day by these third-party agencies online than in *physical* real-time.

Among the most notable of these online referral entities are - *Angie's List*, *Home Advisor*, *Home Depot*, and *Lowe's*. As it is, among these, *Home Advisor* is the most plausible candidate for having the worst record with private home heads in the United States. Home Advisor is on record as having been in business for over 20 years. It is an online contractor referral agency [third-party] which once advertised quite a bit via telecast media. Yet it has since resorted more to online advertising via various search engines.

Mistake 2 [C]

About a year ago (as of this guide), Home Advisor was in the news again for improprieties against private home decision makers. This is not to suggest that this was the *only time* it made the news for its deceptive practices in 2019. Be it as it may, for our purposes, this particular story was featured in March of the same year. It evidences reasons top homeowners are reasonably leery about reliance on third-parties for our contractor needs on special projects.

In this account there was *more than one victim*. But for purposes of concision hopefully it will suffice to mention only one. This is perhaps the most sorrowful. A senior couple responded to *Home Advisor* advertising for having 'reputable and licensed' contractor availability. The project entailed a mix of things but the one which appears to have been most saddening is that of the apparent floor replacement.

The contractor recommended by said enterprise tore out [demo'd] the floor but did not bother to adequately mark off the area as *dangerous* before calling it a day. The husband, on returning home from an errand, entered believably the front entrance and fell through floor. There was absolutely nothing conspicuously placed to forewarn the elderly man that the area was unsafe. There were a series of other projects around the home - interior-exterior - unattended or shoddy. This suggests lots of haste compounded by the contractor's gross lack of training and skill in any of these areas.

But Homeowners who make wisest contractor decisions are highly aware these ruses played on unsuspecting others via Home Advisor and many related contractor referral agencies - whether known or unknown. It is because they make it their business to learn from the unfortunate tragic lessons of others.

In essence, for us to be more like top decision makers in resident-contractor relations, we can be likewise more attentive. The more interested we are in learning how others have been swindled in resident-contractor relations, the more aware. The more aware, the greater our frequency of avoiding the same pitfalls. Among these is the gullibility relying solely on how *consumer-friendly* many-a-contractor referral claims to be.

Famed motivational life-skills coach, Brian Tracy, is noted for saying:

"Successful people are simply those with successful habits."

We can paraphrase this for our immediate purpose:

"Successful homeowners are simply those with successful hiring habits."

Do we believe this? Can we say this and truly mean it with a *passion*? These words are not said as hyperbole i.e., for purely sensational effect. Beneath it all is a potential expression of how we deeply feel about anything in which we expect to be successful. Resident-contractor relations is only a very special realm for that nature of forward-moving engagement.

It is plausible for us to concur that we cannot be unsuccessful deciding on contractor support when our wits are keyed towards being otherwise. In better vernacular, we can barely say, with any genuine sense of reason, that *we are* making wise decisions trusting third-parties *to make them for us*. This was the *carnal sin* which led to the troubles the aged married couple experienced.

Further, it can be helpful to know that in order for them to afford the thousands of dollars in advance funds, they applied to refinance their home. The funds were granted. They are deeply in debt. They can lose it. Relying on third-party information can cause us to lose *ours*. Reality check.

Another morsel of knowledge we may never forget is that the journalist of this story somehow managed to communicate with the president of Home Advisor. He boasted, according to this report, having *hundreds of satisfied customers*. But when the reporter asked him to produce a list of these purported *satisfied customers*, he was unable to produce *a single one*! One would think that for an operation like Home Advisor which has been in business for roughly 20 years. It would be no challenge delivering a sizable contingent of residents proud to confess to Home Advisor's purported customer rapport.

One would think that for an enterprises which boasts over a billion dollars in assets, it would have at least *several thousand*. This speaks to all the rave reviews claimed to be from *satisfied customers* on its website – and on limited pockets of televised 'testimonials.' Why could he not produce one credible satisfied customer of all claimed? They must be *too busy*.

Summary

* For sure appearances can be as deceiving as they can be detrimental. This is something top homeowners are very familiar with. We require far more than what we are told by such building trades personnel. Documentation, especially from public government sources, speaks far better and louder. Add to that reliable residential references, all proof of contractors' skills, inclusive.

* We may want to steer 'free 'n' clear' of basing our hiring decisions on *recommendations* of contractors, alone - especially, from *distant third-party* business operations.

These are 2 of the gravest mistakes scarcely heard of among top homeowners in resident-contractor relations. Potentially, everyone is eligible to fine-tune our priorities in resident-contractor relations – but only a meager few ever do. Meager in number, far richer in home project success! We succeed where many continue to fail on a daily basis because we go the extra-mile continually learning more about:

1. What *else* occurred in a post or news story to make others victims.
2. What we can do to prepare against being likewise victimized.
3. Conscientiously prepare against it.
4. Conduct our hiring consistent with the preparations we have made – *protocol*.

HOME IS THE BEST WONDER OF THE WORLD!

"I believe through learning and the application of what you have learned, you can solve any problem, overcome any obstacle, and achieve any goal that you set for yourself." - **Brian Tracy**

**Team HGRBS*

HGRBS – a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit of independent volunteers

See “Helpful References” Below

HELPFUL REFERENCES

Brian Tracy – Has Influenced millions of successful people. He has physically delivered messages to huge audiences in over 80 different countries.

<https://topresultsacademy.com/authors/brian-tracy/biography/>

Home Advisor Ratings – It apparently gives itself a 4.5-Star Rating

Cross-Reference Via Search Engine ‘ Home Advisor - Ratings’

Home Advisor Recommends Yet Another Incompetent Contractor

https://youtu.be/_VEXgYjiZPg

Angie’s List Is Acquired By Home Advisor [Now one in the same]

<https://www.denverpost.com/2017/10/02/homeadvisor-angies-list-merger-growth/>

Revised "ANGI Homeservices, Inc "(A corp. Division of Home Advisor) . NO LINK PROVIDED HERE. Reason: Website Has 'Padlock' But Risky Connectivity Which Was Blocked By HGRBS Network While Visiting. Excerpt:

“ANGI Homeservices, Inc. turns home improvement jobs imagined into jobs well-done. People throughout North America and Europe rely on us to book quality home service pros across 500 different categories, from repairing and remodeling to cleaning and landscaping.”

Home Depot – Another Recommended Inept Contractor – Left Home In Worst Shape

<https://youtu.be/1DkugtkbIB0>

Lowe’s – A Lowe’s Dispatched Contractor Scams Multiple Residents – Cumulative \$114,000

<https://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/news/2019/10/08/ankeny-iowa-banned-contractor-lowes-curtiss-bird-unemployment-polk-county-court/3911626002/>

Contractor Of Phony Company Defrauded 63 Private Home Heads

<https://youtu.be/iddnLWG0U8k>

Muhammad Ali - 56 Wins, 5 Losses [56:5]

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Boxing_career_of_Muhammad_Ali

NOTE: *Angie's List, Home Advisor, Home Depot, and Lowe's* are each documented to have racked up years worth of complaints by consumers on contractors recommended. Top homeowners are usually privy to their record recommending detrimental contractors. Each has had a pattern. Although there are seeming lulls in each's deceptive business practices in this regard, more cases pop up. **CAREFUL**