

How to Pick the Best Home Services Provider

One of the most frustrating challenges of keeping a home in top shape is finding reliable help when you need it. Whether your home projects are emergency repairs or planned upgrades, it's critical that you find the right home services provider.

And that's the challenge.

There are most likely plenty of plumbers, contractors, remodelers, carpenters, handymen and painters in your area. But which ones are the best? Who can you count on to do the job right?

In this article, we'll walk you through the process of picking the best home services provider for any home project. These tips are simple, straightforward, and (best of all) totally free.

Ask Around

We'll start with the easy one. Ask your neighbors or friends to recommend home services providers they've hired.

Asking around is an easy and reliable way to get credible recommendations. And it's particularly helpful if you're new to the neighborhood. A word-of-mouth recommendation often speaks volumes about a service provider's reputation. That's because it comes from a customer with first-hand experience working with the service provider.

Be sure to compare notes from different neighbors. Then narrow the list down to the most popular and highly recommended names.

Search Social Media

Social media platforms can be excellent sources of information. Just search nearby home services providers by name and see what others are saying about them.

Some home services providers will even include testimonials and before-and-after pictures on their social media feeds. These can give you an idea of the quality of their work.

Research Your Choices

Whether you get your recommendations from friends, family or Facebook, take each one with a grain of salt. Do some digging of your own, researching each option.

Consider the following for each:

- Qualifications
- Certifications
- Licenses and bonding
- Areas of specialization
- Professionalism
- Assurances and guarantees

You can do your homework by visiting their websites, making phone calls or both. If you'd like to make the process more efficient, start online. When you've narrowed your search to 2-3 options, make phone calls.

Use a Verified Directory and Online Reviews

Look for unbiased customer reviews on independent business directories, forums and review websites. These sites often use a combination of third-party research and consumer reviews to rate contractors. Some even offer guarantees on the quality of work.

The most trusted sources of home services reviews include:

- [Best Pick Reports](#)
- [Five Star Rated](#)
- Better Business Bureau (BBB)
- Google Business Reviews

You can expect candid information about who does the best work, along with certification of licensing, insurance, and best business practices. (Just be sure to avoid site where highly rated reviews can be purchased.)

Bringing It All Together

The very best plan is a combination of all the tips we've included.

That doesn't mean you have to work through every suggestion, but maybe you ask around, check online review sites, and make a few calls. In other words, do enough investigation to get a solid idea of any home services provider you plan to hire.

After all, we're talking about someone who will be working in your home. It's important to find the best.