



TOOLS & TIPS

CCB'S HOMEOWNER NEWSLETTER

October 2024



Oregon Construction
Contractors Board

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March is Home Improvement Month at CCB!

March is a time when many homeowners start to think seriously about their upcoming home improvements. CCB is celebrating this month with educational opportunities to make your home improvement projects a success!

Join Us for the March Homeowner Webinars

We're holding three webinars throughout the month of March on different topics. These webinars are all FREE and available to the public.

Door-to-Door Sales: What to Do When the Home Improvement Comes to You

- March 4, 2025, 11:00
- Join us for a talk about door-to-door sales. When is it a scam and when is it legit? We'll discuss how to protect yourself from scams and hire the right contractor for you.
- [REGISTER HERE](#)

Fire Hardening Webinar

- March 18, 2025, 11:00
- In this webinar, we'll learn from Building Codes Division about how to harden your home against fires. At the end, CCB will present on how to hire a contractor to do the work.
- [REGISTER HERE](#)

Choosing a Real Estate Agent, their Duties to You, and What to Do If Things Go Wrong

- March 27, 2025, 11:00
- Are you buying or selling a home this year? Join us for a presentation featuring speakers from Oregon's Real Estate Agency (REA). Speakers will provide you with tips for choosing an agent and discuss what to do when things go wrong. At the end, CCB will present on working with contractors to repair a home during the buying and selling process.
- [REGISTER HERE](#)

Hiring a contractor for home improvements this spring? 6 Tips to make a difference



- 1. Check your contractor for an active license.** Look up their license in the search feature on our website. Check to ensure that their license is active. Contractors with an active license are required to carry a bond and insurance. You can also look up their history of complaints and disciplinary actions. This helps you avoid bad actors. Have questions about looking up the license? Read the tips on our home improvement month page, or call our agency.
- 2. Remember, your handyman needs a license too.** Anyone who performs improvements and repairs to real property needs to be licensed with the CCB. This includes handymen!
- 3. Vet contractors early.** Good contractors fill their calendar quickly. If you're hoping to renovate your home this summer or fall, start meeting with contractors now. House painters, deck installers, home renovation professionals are all busy in the summer.
- 4. Get multiple estimates.** Getting more than one estimate from a contractor helps you decide what's a fair price to pay for your home improvement. We recommend vetting at least three contractors for major home improvements. Vetting more than one business enables you to compare the options, so you can hire a contractor that really meets your needs.
- 5. Get a contract.** Contracts are only required if the job is more than \$2,000, but you can get a contract for less. In fact, we encourage it. Having a contract helps prevent disputes and miscommunications. Also, if you must go to court, the contract shows what the contractor said they would do. Learn more about [contracts on our website](#).
- 6. Know the signs of a scam.** Scams happen every day. Protect yourself. Know the signs of a scam, including:
 - You feel pressured to act now. Scam artists put pressure on homeowners to make fast decisions about which home improvements to take on, and who to hire. Steer clear of anyone who tells you that you have hire them now or you'll lose out on an opportunity. Good contractors let homeowners do their homework and make informed decisions.
 - The price is very low. Be prepared to pay a fair price for quality work. Good contractors hire dependable employees and use quality materials – and that costs money. If a contractor is charging an extra low price, ask yourself why.
 - The job comes to you. Be cautious of anyone who comes to your home and asks to inspect your property. If it's a scam, the scam artist will identify a problem, charge high prices for solutions, and make you feel like walking away would be a mistake.



KEY CONTACTS

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503-934-2229

Dispute resolution

(mediation) questions:

503-934-2247

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Oregon Homeowner Spring Checklist

Not sure where to spend your time and energy this spring? Here are some important tasks to put on your to-do list.

- 1. Clean and repair gutters.** Gutters need to be cleaned at least once annually, sometimes more. Watch your gutters for signs of overflow and clean your gutters if necessary. If hiring someone to do cleaning only, a CCB license is not necessary. If they're repairing your gutters, check that they have an active license.
- 2. Test HVAC system.** Test your air conditioner before the weather gets hot. The Department of Energy recommends homeowners service their air conditioner once annually to keep it running efficiently. DOE also recommends replacing or cleaning out air filters as recommended by the air conditioner manufacturer. Is it smoky outside? Replace your air filters more frequently.
- 3. Consider fire hardening.** 2024 had a record-breaking fire season, with over 1.9 million acres consumed. Take time to harden your home and mitigate the risk of wildfire. Join us for our webinar on March 18 to learn more.
- 4. Clean and inspect your roof.** Inspect your roof for problems like curling or deteriorating shingles, missing shingles, and deteriorating flashing. Have your roof cleared of moss and debris. If your roof needs replacement, meet with roofers quickly. Good roofing contractors book up fast and fall will be here before you know it.
- 5. Test your smoke detectors.** Take this opportunity to test your smoke detectors and replace their batteries if necessary.
- 6. Inspect and maintain your deck.** Real wood decks need to be re-stained or repainted periodically. Composite wood decks need cleaning but no other maintenance, unless something is broken. Inspect your deck and perform repairs as needed. If you're installing a new deck or building onto an existing deck, you'll probably need a permit. Check with your local permitting office.
- 7. Check your irrigation system.** Irrigation systems can deteriorate over the winter. Run your system before starting your spring planting and get repairs as needed.
- 8. Treat for pests.** Pests can cause damage to your home's structure. Look for signs that your home has been invaded by insects or animals. Listen for sounds in the walls, watch for holes in the floors, around the attic, or near walls. If you think your home may have pests, contact a reputable pest professional for advice and next steps.
- 9. Clean, clear, and paint your home's exterior.** While moss grows on the north side of your home, the south and west sides may need repainting to combat the effects of paint fading. Clean your home's exterior, then assess next steps.