

# ASK AN EXPERT

## ABOUT HIRING A SAFE CONTRACTOR

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### Q What does safety have to do with getting my home renovation or build completed to my satisfaction?

A I know most households are concerned with the costs of projects, and certainly want to get the best deal in town, but what they may not realize is that companies that take shortcuts with safety usually have higher injury rates on site. Frequent injuries can lead to those dreaded project delays, produce lower quality work, and cause the cost of your build or renovation to go up. Ultimately, you, as a consumer, end up paying more! That's why safety is such a great indicator of a company's ability to get projects done on time, on budget, without project deficiencies and injuries.

### Q What should I be looking for when hiring a contractor?

A One of the big things you should really be asking these contractors is if their workers are adequately trained and if they have a safety management system in place, like the nationally-recognized Certificate of Recognition (COR®) program available through the Saskatchewan Construction Safety Association (SCSA).

Before hiring a builder, you should also request the following:

- Business License
- Proof of Commercial Insurance
- Letter of Good Standing showing the firm has a WCB account/ all premiums are paid
- Safety Program Certification (COR®)
- References from other customers
- Any other qualifications, certification or accreditation (such as warranty, product certification, or Better Business Bureau Accreditation)

### Q What should I do if I can't get this information?

A If you feel like your questions are not being welcomed or they can't provide the paper work you're asking for, chances are the company is not invested in proper safety management practices and you won't be able to gain the same level of confidence that you would from a company that has all of their documentation in place and can openly talk about their commitment to safety. Here are some other questions to consider when hiring contractors, in order to gauge if the company takes the safety of its employees, your family members, pets and surrounding neighbours seriously:

- Do all of the employees working at heights have proper fall protection equipment / a fall protection plan in place?
- What types of hazardous materials are being used? i.e. allergens, irritants, chemicals
- Does the company provide supervision of workers on site?
- Are supervisors and workers trained?
- What equipment will they be using? Can it be a hazard?
- How will they control hazards?
- How will they secure the site after hours?

Home renovations and builds can be stressful. Choose a safe and qualified builder to alleviate potential frustration and ensure you are getting a high-quality product. Make sure they're COR® certified by the SCSA!

Companies serious about  
**HIGH PERFORMANCE**  
are serious about  
**SAFETY**

**SCSA** SASKATCHEWAN CONSTRUCTION SAFETY ASSOCIATION

**COR** MISSION: ZERO

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