



# Ontario Renovates

## Home Renovation Program in Huron County



## CHOOSING A CONTRACTOR

The County of Huron does not recommend specific contractors and does not maintain a list of preferred contractors. However, we suggest obtaining bids from two contractors before you make a decision. When selecting a contractor, also consider the following:

### **Recommendation from family, friends and neighbours**

An endorsement from someone you know and trust can help you make your decision. You can also get names from local homebuilder and renovation associations, building supply stores and municipal building departments.

### **Ask for references and check them**

Former customers are an excellent source of information. Ask for a list of customer references that you can contact to evaluate the contractor's past performance. Checking references and credentials is critical whether or not you know someone who has used a contractor or renovator.

### **Consider a local company**

Look for a company with an established business history in your community. An out-of-area contractor may not be familiar with local building standards and may not be able to provide you with prompt service.

### **Liability insurance and workers' insurance**

It is important to check that the contractor/renovator has current liability insurance and workers' insurance for people on the job and damages they may cause. Without this protection, you, the property owner could be liable for any injuries or damages that result from your building or renovation work. Ask to see the contractor's certificate and make sure that it is current.

### **Ontario Renovates Program Considerations**

Review your bids or quotations to ensure:

- The quote is in writing - professional contractors provide customers with a written quotation
- Job description follows the ORP Scope of Work
- You clearly understand the total price and the cost of each item of work
- Terms of payment are clear
- A schedule of work is provided
- Start and completion dates are clearly shown with provisions for reasonable delays
- HST number and HST amount are included

### **Before you sign the contract**

- Read it carefully
- Understand what it says
- Ensure that it describes exactly what you want and what you have been promised

### **After you have signed a contract**

Under the Consumer Protection Act in Ontario, all contracts for goods or services signed in the consumer's home that are worth more than \$50 are subject to a ten day cooling off period. This means that you have 10 days from the date you receive a contract you sign in your home to cancel, for any reason. For more information, contact the Ministry of Consumer Services at 1.416.326.8800 or view the website at [www.sse.gov.on.ca/mcs/en/pages/what\\_are\\_my\\_rights.aspx](http://www.sse.gov.on.ca/mcs/en/pages/what_are_my_rights.aspx)