OWNER/BUILDER PROTECTION

PROTECT YOURSELF BEFORE STARTING CONSTRUCTION OR BUYING A HOME!!

IF YOU DECIDE TO HIRE A LICENSED CONTRACTOR

Always check credentials with the California State Contractor’s License Board
Beware of contractors willing to work without permits
http://www.cslb.ca.gov/

Whether you are doing the work yourself or going to hire a contractor or a design professional, research is important. The Contractor’s State License Board http://www.cslb.ca.gov/ has articles that cover a wide range of interesting topics for consumers, and you can check on a contractor’s license to make sure it’s active. The California Architects Board http://www.cab.ca.gov/, and the California Board for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors http://www.dca.ca.gov/, have similar web sites for consumers. We also suggest you contact family friends and people you trust for referrals. Many good contractors rely on word of mouth referrals.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

• Hiring a Licensed contractor video
  The Contractors State License Board has produced a 15-minute educational video titled "Doing It Right: Hiring a Licensed Contractor." The video guides consumers through the process of selecting, hiring and managing a contractor.
  http://www.cslb.ca.gov/consumers/hire-a-contractor/do-it-right-video.asp

• A Consumer Guide to Filing Construction Complaints
  Describes how to file complaints against contractors with the CSLB.

• The California Building Performance Guidelines
  An easy-to-read manual and an excellent tool for the consumer which contains appropriate and comprehensive homeowner maintenance tips, and defines the standards under which a new home should be built.

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- **Homeowners Education Association (HEA)**
  HEA distributes informational material related to residential construction guidelines and home maintenance guidelines. These books are written for builders, subcontractors, and homeowners. [http://housefixit.com/](http://housefixit.com/)

- **The Building Standards Institute (BSI)**
  BSI is a non-profit organization established for the purpose of providing consumer education in the field of residential construction. [http://www.buildingstandardsinstitute.org/](http://www.buildingstandardsinstitute.org/)

- **The Contractors State Licensing Board (CSLB)**
  CSLB is the state agency responsible for licensing contractors. They have many guides and pamphlets that provide useful information for the owner builders and contractors. [http://www.cslb.ca.gov/GeneralInformation/Library/GuidesAndPamphlets.asp](http://www.cslb.ca.gov/GeneralInformation/Library/GuidesAndPamphlets.asp)