

Today's News - Friday, August 25, 2017

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Taking the time to research and choose a reliable business or contractor for a home renovation goes a long way towards protecting you and your home. In Ontario, consumers are protected under the [Consumer Protection Act, 2002](#) whether you're hiring a contractor for a planned renovation or an unexpected repair. Follow these steps before you hire a business or contractor for home repairs or renovations:

- Do your research: Start out by asking friends and family for recommendations of businesses. Personal referrals can give you peace of mind because they come from sources that you trust. Always ask to see the business's contract and credentials before hiring. Check the [Consumer Beware List](#) to see if there are any recent charges, convictions, orders, actions or unanswered complaints against the businesses you are considering to do the work.
- Get multiple quotes: Always try to get estimates from at least three businesses and compare them. It might be a red-flag if one deal is significantly lower than the others. Reputable companies meet all legal requirements, like charging and paying applicable taxes.
- Take your time: Give yourself enough time to consider an offer. Once you hire a business, never pay the full amount for the work up-front. It is recommended that you keep your deposit to 10 per cent of the total cost, and pay the balance owing in installments or when work is complete. Also, you are required by law to hold back 10 per cent of the contract price until 45 days has passed since the renovation is substantially complete.
- Get a written contract: A written contract helps to ensure that you get what you paid for and protects you from fraud. If you pay cash, make sure that you get a detailed, signed receipt from the contractor. If you sign a contract in your home for renovations worth \$50 or more, the Consumer Protection Act, 2002 gives you a number of protections, including a 10-day cooling off period in which you can cancel the contract.

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Also today:

- Ontario is securing jobs in Sault Ste. Marie by supporting upgrades to the Tenaris Algoma Tubes seamless pipe mill. Glenn Thibeault, MPP for Sudbury, made the announcement today on behalf of Michael Gravelle, Minister of Northern Development and Mines at Tenaris Algoma Tubes. The province's investment in plant upgrades will help to lower operating costs and improve energy efficiency. This investment also allowed Tenaris to re-open their plant, following a temporary suspension of operations in 2016, securing 130 local jobs.

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Our government's plan to build a stronger, healthier Ontario includes historic new **investments in health care, including free medications for everyone 24 and under** who has OHIP coverage through the OHIP+: Children and Youth Pharmacare Program, **providing free average tuition** to over 210,000 students starting fall 2017 and on-the-job learning opportunities to help land a great job, helping 100,000 more kids aged 0–4 access quality, licensed child care, **making everyday life more affordable by reducing electricity costs** by 25 per cent on average through our Fair Hydro Plan,

and **taking action to make housing more affordable** for homebuyers and renters through our Fair Housing Plan.