

Media Release

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Many building surveyors do not make light work

Many Victorians building new homes or undertaking major renovations are unaware they have inadvertently committed an offence by appointing multiple building surveyors to work on the same project.

The Victorian Building Authority (VBA) is reminding homeowners that work carried out by an appointed building surveyor could be invalid if more than one surveyor is appointed to the work.

VBA Director of Enquiries, Inspections and Complaints Murray Smith says it is an offence to appoint more than one building surveyor per job.

“We are noticing more instances of multiple building surveyors being appointed by homeowners for the same piece of work,” Mr Smith said.

“The surveyor may start work unaware another building surveyor has already been appointed as the relevant building surveyor for that project, or has already started the same building permit process. This constitutes an offence by the owner appointing the second building surveyor. Dual appointments may also result in disciplinary action against the second building surveyor in certain circumstances. Dual appointments create confusion for owners, building surveyors, builders and local council officers.”

Mr Smith says both owners and building surveyors should be clear with each other from first contact and read the information about appointing a building surveyor on the [VBA's website](#).

Once an owner has appointed a building surveyor, the building surveyor must notify their local council. If a homeowner decides to engage their local council's municipal building surveyor, they do not need to formally appoint them – they can simply apply for a building permit from the council.

It is not an offence to appoint separate building surveyors to carry out different projects (covered by different building permits) on the same property. For example, a homeowner could have one building surveyor working on a new garage, and another on a kitchen renovation at the same home. It would be an offence to have two or more building surveyors appointed to work on the new garage.

If a homeowner wishes to change building surveyors, they must [obtain written consent from the VBA](#).

For more information, visit vba.vic.gov.au/consumers/building-for-consumers/building-surveyor

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