

Media Release

July 17 2017

7 signs your builder or plumber is unregistered

The Victorian Building Authority has released its top seven warning signs of an unregistered builder or plumber.

Building a home, or undertaking a renovation will likely be one of the biggest investments a home owner will ever make.

To protect themselves from rogue practitioners, the VBA urges home owners to do their research and develop good communication lines with their builder or plumber.

VBA Acting Chief Executive Officer Murray Smith said it was also important to understand the role of the building surveyor and the VBA before starting the construction process.

“It is only through your relationship with your builder, building surveyor and plumber that you will fully understand how your project is going,” Mr. Smith said.

“Seek regular updates, take photographs and ensure any variations to plans are agreed in writing by you and the practitioner.”

The VBA’s top 7 warning signs of an unregistered builder / plumber

- 1) No results are found when you type the builder’s or plumber’s name into the VBA’s online Find a Practitioner tool.
- 2) They do not ask you to enter into a written contract before the project starts.
- 3) They ask for too much money up front or at each set payment stage. By law in Victoria, a deposit can be no more than five per cent of the total project cost (projects over \$20,000).
- 4) They are not prepared to tell you about or show you what homes they have recently built.
- 5) They cannot or will not show you their VBA ID card.
- 6) Your builder or plumber is not a member of an industry body.
- 7) You are not given a copy of your builder’s domestic building insurance policy or a certificate of currency covering your property before construction.

ENDS

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