

Know your rights to build it right

A homeowner's guide to protecting your
consumer rights when building or renovating



Don't get burnt, stung, or in a tangle!

If you're building a new home, buying, or renovating, know your rights to build it right.

Get informed before you start

Planning your dream build? Start with quotes and prices along with your dream plans. Think about the risks and where to get advice.

The **building.govt.nz/checklist** helps you ask the right questions and shows your rights and what you need to know about the law that's there to protect you.



“CHUR BRO,”



Decide who does what – project management

No one wants your dream build to become a nightmare.

To make sure it runs smoothly, use the **building.govt.nz/checklist** to work out timelines, costs, and who will be responsible for different parts of your building project.

That way everyone is on the same page, right from the start.

“NICE ONE MATE,”

Get the right skills for your job

Research your building contractor and the company they work for, before diving in.

Our **building.govt.nz/checklist** helps you confirm that your building contractor has the right skills to do your project, including being Licenced Building Practitioners and other registered tradies.





Agree on costs and payments

Get detailed quotes for the building work.

Make sure you are comparing the same scope of work for each quote. Work out the payment terms ahead of time.

Our **building.govt.nz/checklist** steps you through what you need to know to make sure there are no surprises.

Don't just shake on it – get a written contract

New Zealand law requires a written contract if the building work will cost more than \$30,000, but a contract is recommended no matter the size of your project.

Our **building.govt.nz/checklist** lays out what the contract should include to protect everyone.



Stay connected and in control

Stay connected with your building contractor, so you'll know early if there are changes to your build.

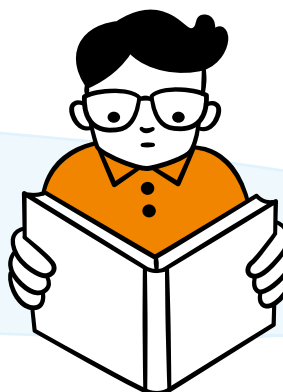
Our **building.govt.nz/checklist** helps you know what to do if there are changes, and how the law protects you.

“SWEET AS,,

Nearly there

If you have concerns about a building project, make sure you resolve it with your building contractor.

Our **building.govt.nz/checklist** provides advice if things aren't going to plan.



About this checklist

Protect your consumer rights during a build by following the standard checklist to tick off the contract essentials.

A building contractor is required to provide you with a checklist and other prescribed information under the Building Act 2004 before you sign a contract for the building work if –

- a. you request this checklist and the prescribed disclosure information; or
- b. the building work is going to cost \$30,000 or more (including GST).

Tick off the checklist:

☐ **STEP 1**

Become informed

All building work must comply with the provisions of the Building Act 2004.
legislation.govt.nz

☐ **STEP 2**

Agree on project structure and management

Building projects do not run themselves. Decide how you want to manage the building project.

☐ **STEP 3**

Hire competent building contractors

Ensure that your building contractor has the skills and resources to carry out the project.

☐ **STEP 4**

Agree on price and payments

The contract should clearly state what payments are required and when. Where possible, a fixed price is preferable. The lowest price is not always the best price.

☐ **STEP 5**

Have a written contract

You should obtain legal advice to ensure that you understand your rights and obligations and that the contract complies with all legal requirements.

☐ **STEP 6**

Take control

All residential building work is covered by implied warranties prescribed by the Building Act 2004 that address matters such as workmanship and building work being fit for purpose.

☐ **STEP 7**

Resolving disputes

It is in both your interests and the building contractor's interests to keep the building project running smoothly and to deal with any disputes as they arise.



For more information, go to **building.govt.nz/getting-started/consumer-protection**

Disclaimer: The above content is derived from the Prescribed Checklist in Schedule 2 of the Building (Residential Consumer Rights and Remedies) Regulations 2014. It is not the full form of the Prescribed Checklist. For the full form that a building contractor is required to provide you if you request it, or the building work is going to cost \$30,000 or more (including GST), see: **building.govt.nz/checklist**