

# Video: Build It Right – consumer protection measures

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Understand why a written contract is important, what a good contract covers and other information you should get from your contractor before you build or renovate.

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Of interest to Homeowners

Transcript [Print \(https://www.building.govt.nz/projects-and-consents/why-contracts-are-valuable/video-building-consumer-protection/downloadpdf#\)](https://www.building.govt.nz/projects-and-consents/why-contracts-are-valuable/video-building-consumer-protection/downloadpdf#)

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**Duration:** 2.39

“We’ve got a contract with our designer. We should have a contract with our builder too...right?”

Yes you’re right.

Your home is one of your biggest investments. A written contract makes sure you’re legally protected and clearly outlines what you’re paying

for. This should be agreed and signed before work starts.

**This video tells you:**

- What a contract covers
- What other protection measures you can ask for

**Okay let's get started with your contract.**

It's a good idea to always have a contract, but if your building project is going to cost \$30,000 or more, you **must** have a contract. It's the law.

Most contractors will have a standard contract they use – our website gives you helpful advice about what to look for in these. If you're in any doubt, have a lawyer take a look before signing it.

**A good contract will cover:**

- What you're going to get – including the materials used, quality standards, and start and finish dates.
- The cost, what you need to pay and when. And what happens if unexpected costs crop up.
- What you need to do as the homeowner; and what your contractor needs to do.

For work costing \$30,000 or more, or if you ask for it, your contractor must also give you:

**A disclosure statement.** This is information about their skills, qualifications, license and the insurance or guarantees they provide.

**A checklist.** This outlines the stages of the build and how you can protect yourself at each of these stages.

Bottom line – your home is one of your biggest investments, so you want to protect it and yourself with a contract ... right?

So, to Build it Right:

1. Always get a contract
2. Ask for a disclosure statement and checklist
3. Get legal advice before signing.

## Related videos



<https://www.building.govt.nz/projects-and-consents/planning-a-successful-build/scope-and-design/choosing-the-right-people-for-your-type-of-building-work/use-licensed-people-for-restricted-building-work/video-build-it-right-restricted-building-work/>

Video: Build It Right – restricted building work

[\(https://www.building.govt.nz/projects-and-consents/planning-a-successful-build/scope-and-design/choosing-the-right-people-for-your-type-of-building-work/use-licensed-people-for-restricted-building-work/video-build-it-right-restricted-building-work/\)](https://www.building.govt.nz/projects-and-consents/planning-a-successful-build/scope-and-design/choosing-the-right-people-for-your-type-of-building-work/use-licensed-people-for-restricted-building-work/video-build-it-right-restricted-building-work/)

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Watch a video about restricted building work, when it applies and who needs to do or supervise it.

Where this information relates to assisting people:

- with compliance with the Building Act, it is published under section 175 of the Building Act
- with a Weathertight Services claim, it is published under section 12 of the Weathertight Homes Resolution Services Act 2006.