

Helpful advice from the Master Builder's Association (MBA)

Choose a Reliable Building Contractor

Ensure that your contractor is registered with the necessary legal or statutory bodies such as: Workman's Compensation Insurance; Bargaining Council for the Building Industry; and the Receiver of Revenue. Contractors are not obliged to be members of the MBA. Current legislation requires that your contractor to be registered with the National Home Builders Registration Council (NHBRC), only if you are building a new house. Registration with the NHBRC for alterations additions or renovations is not required.

The Price

When comparing costs between quotes make sure that each contractor is quoting on the same written specifications and conditions.

Accepting the Quotation

Make sure that the agreement includes the starting date, the approximate duration of the work, the anticipated completion date, cleaning up during the work including the disposal of waste or rubble, the order in which the contractor will proceed while on your premises and payment details.

Insurances

The contractor should be insured for Public Liability and contract insurance. Insurance should be agreed to cover damage to your existing building and contents. Inform your own insurance company that you are having building work or renovations done.

Extra Work and / or Variations

Establish the cost of any extra work in writing before the work is carried out and confirm any changes in writing.

Payment

When undertaking building work one should not normally be required to make a deposit before work commences. It is advisable to agree stages of interim payments on completion of certain sections and specify the agreement in the contract. A request for a progress payment should be accompanied by an invoice detailing the % and value of the work completed. For a small job, payment is normally made in one lump sum when the work is satisfactorily completed. Before making final payment, inspect the completed work and submit your complaints or defects regarding workmanship or materials used, in writing. Whilst it is acceptable to withhold money for defects or incomplete work, it is extremely unfair to withhold a large sum of money for minor defects.

Complaints Procedure MBA Contractors.

In the event of complaints against an MBA member consumers may appeal to the MBA for assistance, provided the member is a registered member.

For more information please contact your regional branch of the MBA

Gauteng	011 205 9000
Kwa Zulu Natal	031 266 7070
Western Cape	021 685 2625