

Hiring a Roofing Contractor

Your home is a major investment, so you shouldn't trust your new roof to just anyone. By choosing a professional roofing contractor, you will have peace of mind knowing that the job will be done safely and properly and your investment will be protected.

Remember—roofing is dangerous work. Even a small slip can have disastrous consequences. The risk of someone falling off your roof is always there. When workers are on your roof, they must be protected from a fall. Usually, they protect themselves by using lifelines (rope) and safety harnesses. If you see a worker on your roof without a harness, they're probably not protected from a fall.

Before you hire a roofing contractor, follow these steps.

Step 1:

Ask about their business.

Step 2:

Ask about health and safety.

Step 3:

Protect yourself.



Make safety work for you. IHSA is your first step.

IHSA is the leading developer and provider of prevention solutions for work environments involving high-risk activities such as working at heights, working with energized high-voltage power systems, powerline technician apprenticeship, driving motor vehicles, transporting dangerous goods, working on suspended access equipment, and utility line clearing.

We engage with our member firms, workers, and other stakeholders to help them continuously improve their health and safety performance. We do this by providing effective and innovative sector-specific programs, products, and services.

This pamphlet is one of a series developed by the Roofer Trade Labour-Management Health and Safety Committee.

Find out what we can do
for you at **ihsa.ca**



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Tips for
Homeowners

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STEP ONE

Ask about their business

- How long has the contractor been in business?
- Can the contractor provide you with a list of references?
- Does the contractor use a written contract that includes the scope of the work and terms of payment?
- Will the contractor provide you with the following documentation?
 1. A valid manufacturer's warranty
 2. A copy of the contractor's WSIB Certificate. Make sure the contractor's WSIB Certificate is current. (WSIB Certificates are issued every 2 months.)
 3. A copy of the contractor's work-related insurance certificate to ensure that risks are covered. Insurance should include a preset amount of liability coverage.

STEP TWO

Ask about health and safety

- Does the contractor have a health and safety policy and program? (Contractors are legally required to have it if they employ five or more workers.)
- Will the contractor give you written assurance that he or she will comply with the legislation that governs the work?
- Can the contractor provide you with a contact name and the name of the supervisor that will be at your house? It's important for you to have someone in a position of authority that you can talk to if needed. If there are more than five workers, a *competent* supervisor must be on the site.
- Can you get assurances that the contractor is assigning competent workers to perform the work such as proof that workers have been trained in the health and safety requirements associated with the job?

Does the contractor have a health and safety policy and program?

STEP THREE

Protect yourself

If roofing contractors do not provide you with the information you've asked for, they may not have WSIB coverage or insurance of any kind. You could be personally liable if an accident or an injury occurs. This can include being held liable for medical and other costs. You could also be exposed to lawsuits. Do not rely on verbal promises. Protect yourself and your assets.

Ensure the contractor gives you a written contract that includes the specific work to be performed, terms of payment, and warranties or guarantees.

If contractors do not provide you with a written contract, you shouldn't hire them.

You could be personally liable if an accident or an injury occurs.

