

Building People,
Building Companies,
Building Futures



How do you
choose a builder?

It's important to choose the right builder.

It's important to choose the right builder...

Finding a builder is easy enough – many advertise in local newspapers or the Yellow Pages. But how can you tell if a builder is reliable, competent and trustworthy?



According to the Office of Fair Trading, cowboy builders have cost UK householders a staggering £1.6bn in shoddy workmanship that has needed rectifying.

The National Federation of Builders (NFB), the construction industry's leading trade association, is leading the fight against cowboy traders. Our members are reputable builders. All have been strictly vetted and have undergone a range of reference checks. We help to safeguard you as a customer and give you peace of mind.

In addition to this NFB members have exclusive access to a warranty scheme called 'Buildsure' which provides 4 years of cover on construction projects up to £100,000. Many customers find this reassuring as it means the builder can guarantee the work and provide you with valuable peace of mind during and after the build.

Safeguarding You ...

What you want is a builder who will do a quality job at a sensible price. After all, you will enjoy the quality of your building work long after you've forgotten how much it cost.

The National Federation of Builders wants you to get good value, so we have prepared a checklist for you.

Tips for Finding a Good Builder...

1. Get recommendations – ask builders for details of previous customers in your area, speak to them and look at their work

2. Compare estimates – get 3 written quotes from builders, make sure you are clear about VAT. Remember to ask the builder if planning permission is needed.

3. Check with the National Federation of Builders – find out if the builder is a member of a reputable trade association like the National Federation of Builders. This means they will have been strictly vetted and have a clear complaints procedure.

4. Ask to see the insurance certificate – up-to-date public liability insurance is important. This will cover the cost of repairing any damage to your property.

5. Agree the work – be clear about what you want done and stick to it. Ask for a written agreement outlining the work, completion date, security and training, disposal of waste, hours of work and so on. Make sure you confirm any changes in writing.

6. Never pay for work in advance – agree any payment schedule in writing and don't pay cash. Treat with suspicion any builder offering VAT free 'deals' – either the builder is very small or is operating illegally.

Remember – don't take unnecessary risks with your biggest asset - take the right precautions. A good builder will belong to a trade association, undergo continuous training, have public liability insurance, be happy to give you an estimate in writing and won't ask for unusual payment methods.

Search for reputable builders in your area by using the National Federation of Builders' Find a Builder search facility. Visit www.builders.org.uk



Members of the National Federation of Builders are proud of their reputation and are always willing to prove it.

"I chose DFJ Hewer Builders Ltd in Warwickshire to do my building work. I was worried about finding a good builder so decided to choose a member of the National Federation of Builders. This gave me confidence as they are an accredited company with a good track record."

"I was making a large investment and needed to know I was making the right choice, this was better than picking someone out of the phone book. I am extremely happy with the work and would definitely recommend choosing a builder who is a member of the National Federation of Builders."

Roger Barratt

To find out more please contact:

info@builders.org.uk

or visit **www.builders.org.uk**

