

Expert Advice on How To Make Your Dream Home A Reality

YOUR HOME RENOVATION PAGE



How to Save Money on Top Quality Home Improvements and Get Licensed Handyman Services

You can save a lot on home repairs, remodels, upgrades, and installation of new items by following a few simple suggestions:

1. Spend the time to make a list of as many items as you have been thinking about need to be fixed and/or looked at. That way you will get the most bang out of the buck, so to speak. To have a contractor or licensed handyman contractor like HPS Construction Services, or especially an unscrupulous handyman type come over for one item only is an invitation to pay more than you could if you bundled your fix list.

2. On handyman type services, try to avoid a per hour charge basis. Get a fixed price for your item, or, again, preferably, your whole list. Only plumbers, electricians, and car mechanics seem to be able to have to charge by the hour and get away with it.

With a fixed price, then you avoid an adversarial relationship with the contractor or handyman. For example, if your contractor forgets the right materials or tools in the middle of the job, takes a snack or lunch break, spends time on his cell phone, or walks around talking story, or whatever, why should you wonder if you are paying for that non direct work inefficiency?

3. Most importantly, get the work description and payment details in writing...even if it is only on scratch paper.

Buyer Beware! on door to door so called handymen. Check for a business card and call the number on the card, or references, or reference from someone you know who recommends him.... if he only has a cell phone and a beater car with a ladder sticking out of the trunk.....then it may be a little unpleasant, but you better get some identification and cold comfort. Also, beware of someone handing you a card from a Licensed Contractor with his name on it. Call the contractor office and check to see if this person is still employed and is authorized to "use" this license.

4. In this economy, you don't have to risk hiring an unlicensed unknown quantity handyman to save money. Some Licensed contractors, like HPS Construction Services throughout Oahu and Maui, have geared up to compete price-wise with anybody by doing hundreds of small projects every year. Always remember, with a Licensed Contractor, you get a lot of State mandated protections and guarantees.

5. Many homeowners realize they will be staying in their houses during the next few or many years, rather than the "buy it, flip it" mentality of the bubble years just ended. So they



(Left) Gerry Peters, President/General Manager of HPS
(Right) Mike Buck, "The Mike Buck Show" Talk Radio host

are enhancing their quality of life and improving visual enjoyment of their homes by upgrading their kitchens and baths. Many older folks are upgrading to aging in place bathrooms by converting tubs to walk in showers in one bathroom...you cannot lose by a cost effective kitchen or bath upgrade.

The "secret" on how to save money on kitchen and bath upgrades and remodels? Always try to keep the water supply, drains, and electrical service just where they are. Concentrate on the removal and replacement of worn out or old fashioned looking vanities, mirrors, medicine chests, shower and floor tile, sinks, faucets and other fixtures which can be "plugged right in". You will be amazed at the difference and cost to benefit values. You can also save huge amounts by going to pre assembled cabinets from some big box and other sources.

Gerry Peters, President/Gen Mgr of HPS, says you can see some good examples of "plug in" kitchen and baths and their other services at their websites.

Peters is also the content producer and on air co-host of FixitFridays call-in home improvement and repair radio on The Mike Buck Show, on Clear Channel News/Talk Radio KHVH830AM. The show has been on the air for over 5 years, reaching statewide Fridays at 3 to 4 pm live, and re run 6-7 pm.

Gerry Peters and HPS are members of HPLA, Hawaii Lumber Products Association, the BIA-Hawaii, Building Industry Association of Hawaii, and Accredited Member Better Business Bureau of Hawaii.

HPS and Peters can be reached at **808 847-4400** or by email at hpp@aloha.net. Their websites are hpsconstructionservices.com and hurricaneprotect.com.

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