

**Homeowner's Guide USA
Should 'Social Distancing' Also Include
Contractor Service Calls?**

QUALITY OF OUR THINKING

Evidenced By Quality Of Results

***References Appear At End Of This Guide**

Preview

Practically anyone who anticipates assistance from building trades professionals on home projects expects to make the right choice each time. Although there may be quite a few things within our abilities to address, there will always be others best accomplished by *reputable* skilled professionals.

In whichever scenario, we expect results to be exactly or more than what we envision. Face it, when we think about really improving on something in our home, we entertain thoughts of how incredible it would be once done. Already we see the results long before they actually materialize. We regularly may have experiences of euphoria just having it on our minds. What if the project turns out exactly as planned? What if they all did? If all, we will have attained *perfection*.

But as *Vince Lombardi*, famed football coach and general manager is credited with saying:

*"Perfection is not attainable, but if we **chase perfection** we can catch excellence. "*

These words are from an individual who, in his day, successfully coached 3 of the most powerful pro football teams, namely, the *New York Giants* (1954-58), *Green Bay Packers* (1959-67), and Washington Redskins from 1969 until his passing a year later. At the helm, Mr. Lombardi's culmulative win record was above 70%. i.e., in *most* pro games coached, he guided teams to victory.

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Chasing Perfection In Relation

Rightly profound practical concept. We are not perfect, but when we have a driving passion for our performance to be, we increase our personal eligibility for achieving far greater results. The old adage: *We get back what we put in* - remains an indelible parameter for guiding our approach to critical decision making.

In this guide, there are scenarios which initially may not appear relative to the quality of our thinking in relation to resident-contractor relations. There is mention of our approaches to common challenges faced in managing the home i.e. , weeds, clogged kitchen sink, etc. Each of these, however, center around ways in which we arrive at making important decisions around the house. There are some things mentioned very familiar to us as well as very useful tips which can be incorporated to enhance our passion for best results. Or should we say 'perfect?'

Perfecting Our Approach

When we are focused on perfecting our approach towards conscientiously influencing the success of each contractor-related home project, we increase our chances for realizing it. Certainly there is stark difference between *hoping* our home improvement turns out well and *ensuring* it does. It is like hoping our home gardens will grow so well that weeds will disappear.

It is quite ironic, however, that gardens happen to be prime growth locations for them. Our gardens often shield weeds as they are budding. When we water them, likewise are we nurturing weeds. Feed our soil wholesome sprays of nitrates. Weeds also benefit. After all, weeds are plants, too.

When we expect to have 'perfect gardens,' it may do us well to have a practically *infallible routine* for regularly attending to them. Irrespective of how much we aspire towards our gardens being weed-free, when we neglect doing what is required to enforce that, our anticipation is in vain.

In this view, we can easily concur that the key to our aspiration for 'perfection' in anything [not in just weed control] is the quality of our *focus*. This is otherwise conveyed as the manner in which we center our interest on exactly what we would like to achieve. Take for instance, another challenge: Clogged kitchen sink.

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Clogged Kitchen Sink

Hypothetically, our kitchen sink is clogged. Right now this is a very pressing issue. We want it resolved. But how are we going to do it? There are two ways we can respond to this crisis:

1. Complain, then act.
2. Acknowledge, then act

Either approach can lead to remedying the stoppage. But there's a very subtle distinction between the two. The one who complains at onset of discovery of the issue exudes an air of needless distress. The other, one of confidence – only a matter of 'unstopping.' Less complaining, more taking remedial action for getting drainage back to normal. Yet the objective identical: unclog the sink.

How will we do this? Use a plunger or *snake*? What if after using either of these, the sink remains *stopped up*? Will we call the plumber or reach for the bottle of drain *cleaner*? Better still, go full out to physically get down there and remove the blockage? In the long run, after no success with either the plunger or auger, which of these other options do we think would be best? How about first itemizing?

- *Plumber*. Unless we know someone who has proven skill troubleshooting minor plumbing for free, this could be the most expensive option. But we may want to consider if whether or not there is something we can do without going *that* far. Unless there are serious underlying issues with our plumbing system, we may want to first do whatever we can to personally resolve the stoppage.
- *Drain Cleaner*. There are tons of drain cleaners available at the mall, hardware, home store, etc... If we have had the home a while, very likely we have it. Sometimes it does the trick. But, according to MedlinePlus, a free online information service of the world's largest medical library (Library Of Medicine):

"Drain cleaners contain very dangerous chemicals that can be harmful to your health if you swallow them, breathe them in (inhale), or if they come in contact with your skin and eyes."

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Once again, the quality of our thinking comes into play. Knowing the dangers using drain cleaner, is it worth the risk suffering permanent damage to ourselves, small children, and/or pets?

- Remove Blockage Ourselves [DIY]. This involves actually troubleshooting the issue by physically unscrewing the piping below and removing whatever is preventing water drainage from the kitchen sink. Average time: 5 – 15 minutes. Toss in clean up. [See “Helpful References” at bottom of this guide for video link of how this is done]

Of the three alternatives: *plumber, drain cleaner, and D.I.Y.*, which do we think would be our *best* first response to our clogged sink? Very likely we opt for the safest, least expensive: DIY. It is also a lot faster. The irony is that gathering information we require to make our best decision for contractors is also DIY activity. Do we think *knowing the dangers* using corrupt individuals in the field is sufficient motivation for learning more about those we are considering for our home projects? Should it be? Would we risk the danger?

On Target

In matters of striving for a weed-free garden and unclogging the kitchen sink, there is a common denominator: an *objective* worth accomplishing. In either event, we are singularly *focused*. We have special concerns in other areas of our property. But right now this is something most paramount. In order to successfully attend to it there is a process which often entails several significant steps:

- * Clearly identifying our challenge.
- * Identifying the need for soundly overcoming it.
- * Deciding how we can do this in a timely and productive way.
- * Proceeding consistent with what we know can and should be done to that effect.
- * Accomplishing our objective. On target!

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We may not normally consider this process *perfectly* calculated action – but it is. We intentionally plotted every significant move, adjusting as we went along. There is certainly no happenstance about it. Likewise, in the usual scheme of things, selecting trustworthy contractors.

Summary

As we anticipate professional assistance with some projects, we may want to focus on *perfecting* the quality of our thinking towards 2 basic things:

1. Strategy towards preparing for successful accomplishment of one project at a time.
2. Strategy towards continuing to strive towards clearly KNOWING all which we *must* in order to make the *perfect related* hiring decision.

The process for being on target is pretty much the same in both cases, but considered separately ie., ¹home priorities and ²those for hiring the right contractor to deliver:

- * Clearly identifying our challenge.
- * Identifying the need for soundly overcoming it.
- * Deciding how we can do this in a timely and productive way.
- * Proceeding consistent with what we know can and should be done to that effect.
- * Accomplishing our objective.

Corrupt building trades personnel (as some contractors) are like invasive weeds and hazardous drain cleaners in that we can do *perfectly* well without them.

But again, as Vince Lombardi is credited with saying:

*“Perfection is not attainable, but if we **chase perfection** we can catch excellence. ”*

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****Edited with special assistance from D. Madden***

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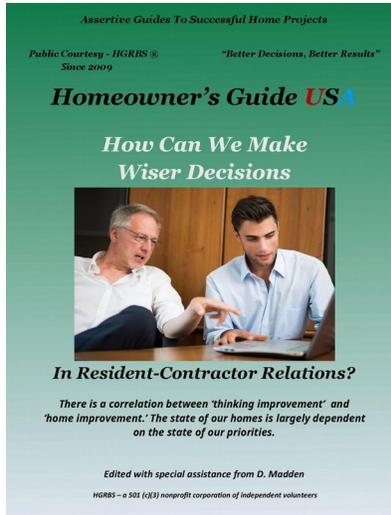
Helpful References

Recommended home guide:

Excerpt

“It is certain that we prefer business relationships which are harmonious. Irrespective of nature, the best operational policy is to do whatever is sensibly required conducive to our objectives. “

<https://www.americanprivatehomefront-hgrbs.com/homeowners-guide-usa.php>



MedlinePlus – Drain Cleaner Hazards

<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/002779.htm>

This Old House – Right Tools For The Job [video]

<https://youtu.be/qwaaL6cgvX0>

This Old House – How To Clear A Clogged Sink [video]

<https://youtu.be/Or4XevbRfz0>

This Old House – Tools How To & DIY

<https://www.thisoldhouse.com/tools>

Vince Lombardi

<https://www.biography.com/athlete/vince-lombardi>

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