

**Homeowner's Guide USA**  
**You Tube - A Reliable Homeowner Resource**  
**In Resident-Contractor Relations**

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\*References Appear At End Of This Guide

**Preview**

One of the greatest of audio-visual phenomena to grace cyberspace since its inception is You Tube. Taken as a whole, there is no other informational resource online of this nature which is so quickly accessible for practically any subject of interest. It is literally the premiere audio-visual *library* of the world.

In this guide special emphasis is given on how invaluable a resource You Tube can be towards our making safer and wiser decisions in *resident-contractor relations*. It is a given that on the average, when we visit You Tube, the least of our concerns are episodes of home improvement fraud. We are regularly attracted to videos which are far less *dismal*. Generally, our basic priority for visiting You Tube is to be entertained.

Whether the entertainment value is catching the latest news story in the saga of *Prince Harry and Meghan* or quick DIY plumbing tips, these are far more preferable. They are as educational as they are satisfying. Needless to say, when it comes to *America's Got Talent* and similar highly sensational You Tube offerings, that goes without saying. What is more is that we can watch these any time of day or night, especially with continued technological proliferation of mobile devices with viewer advantages in 4K UHD resolution. We can toss in the accompanying innovations in real-time hi-fi audio reception.

Do We Remember The Cable Show *Catch A Contractor?*

**Catch A Contractor**

The reality cable show first premiered in 2014. The premise was successfully staging *sting* operations for exposing dishonest contractors who cheated homeowners. The leading hosts were Adam Carolla [producer], Skip Bedell [practicing contractor] and his wife, Alison Bedell [licensed private investigator].

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If we recall, they were contacted by homeowners who were victims of home fraud. Subsequently, Adam and Skip met with them for background information, inspected the work, confirmed the complaint, then set in motion their game plan. Allison, the private investigator would use whatever information they garnered about the contractor and summarily track him down. Together Adam, Skip, and Alison arranged the sting operation. Each dishonest contractor was lured back to the home where the offense transpired or to a mock residence.

In whichever event, these hapless contractors were *perfectly* exposed to thousands of viewers. All inclusive was the interesting array of falsehoods, both verbal and by means of body language - professing *innocence*. Busted!

What is also interesting to note is that the major players i.e., Adam, Skip, and Alison were not novices. Adam was a seasoned carpenter - Skip a *credible* licensed home contractor of many years - Alison, a tenured practicing private investigator. The combined expertise made for these flawless results. They were not regular homeowners.

When we study each contractor's approach, facial expressions, other body language, and inflections, these are what convinced those victimized to trust them. We can surmise that nearly 100% of those affected did not conduct a thorough *service validation/reputation* check previous to hire.

Most homeowners in America who are swindled by mischievous individuals in the building trades are swayed by such charades. Subsequently, when these unreliable trades-persons falter, we are idle. We forego taking legal action when the breakdown of the business relationship warrants.

*Catch A Contractor* wrapped its third and final season in 2015. However, it premiered [Season 3] to an impressive viewing audience of 748,000. Re-runs of this highly popular show via You Tube average over 50,000 views. But there is one from a show during its first season [2014] which boasts a You Tube viewing audience as high as 1.5 million! Doubtless, noting these huge viewing statistics, we can attribute them to the basic theme of *Catch A Contractor* in 2 words: *Sensational entertainment*.

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**The Crux Of The Matter**

*Catch A Contractor* was such a big hit because of its extraordinary entertainment value. This is the kind of content which unfailingly registers very high among audiences. You Tube is no exception. Yet to be more specific, this is the kind of 'live action' presentation which scores above average among viewers who are private home residents. At the end, audiences experience a feeling of having attended a sports event where our team wins! Subsequently, what the show delivered (and does in re-run) to millions of viewers is *the thrill of victory*.

Contrariwise, a You Tube video which lacks these attractive elements, echoes more the *agony of defeat*. We do perfectly well with themes of the latter when considering another rendition of *Romeo & Juliet* or *Titanic* - *but* - not this!

**A Startling Discovery On You Tube Network**

On occasion, without being asked, volunteers share random bits of *publicly accessible* information related to resident-contractor relations in the U.S. Nevertheless, time and again the nonprofit has received surprising discoveries on fraud-related You Tube videos. It is interesting to note that each video reviewed always contains lots of information about:

1. How residents made their decisions.
2. Subtle contractor attributes and mannerisms.
3. Gruesome details of needless residential ramifications.

Yet each is as often *unique in overall detail*.

Although there are newer You Tube videos of this nature which can be easily featured in this guide, there appears to be the need to reach farther back in time. This is done to illustrate average You Tube number of views of such disheartening videos - by those we would think would be most attuned - private home dwellers in the U.S.A.

This video dates as far back as 2011 [remember key references at bottom of this guide]. The number of views it has received till this day is mind-boggling. But before that is mentioned, it may be best to first present a decent overview.

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Customarily, HGRBS follows up on leads of this nature. This is what was confirmed:

Back in 2011 an elderly woman living alone agreed to advance a dishonest contractor \$7500 to repave her driveway.

In addition, this resident said she was also intimidated into 'signing papers.' [nature undisclosed]. On the same day, a group of *unannounced laborers* appeared and did shoddy work. To add insult to injury, just as unexpectedly, the contractor she made the deal with showed up later that day to demand two-thousand more dollars. Since it was not part of the deal, she declined.

Yet what is most troublesome is that in the same moment she refused to disburse more funds, the disgruntled contractor demanded to know how much she had in the bank. Doubtless to say – she refused to tell him. He left.

A warrant was issued for his arrest. It does not appear he was ever arrested for this case. But there are documented others for which he was, indicting habitual predation against residents. He was arrested on prior cases. At the time, it is apparent he was a *fugitive from justice* previous to making this resident another victim.

Even more unsettling about this case is that this new victim *did not know his real name*. The name he gave was an alias. Bluntly, she disbursed funds without knowing who he *really* was. This happens quite a bit in fraud cases of this nature. Toss in a few other masquerades common among detrimental contractors. There are many twists in approach residents can learn. The more such videos we watch, the more we will uncover. On the other hand, the more we avoid - the less.

\*The practical moral: *What we do not know can be what we are victimized by.*

Now for the number of views, etc... From 2011 to 2020: 3,000 views, 4 'Likes,' 2 'Dislikes.' That is roughly 300 meager views annually. On the surface this may appear reasonable viewing. But upon further investigation, this a dramatic example of embarrassingly low-initiative among most US private home heads. The relevance is that private home decision makers in America amount to 64.8% of our population or 212 Million!

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Although all are not You Tube fans, it is plausible that a representative several million are. We have before us an immensely dismaying video of a 74-year-old woman who lives alone, callously scandalized and emotionally abused by a dishonest contractor.

Our documented interest?: only *3000 Views*, 4 '*Likes*,' and 2 '*Dislikes*' - for an entire decade? This evidences extreme resistance to pushing ourselves to learn as much as we can about these things.

**Developing Conscientious YT Viewing Habits**

Each You Tube video can be viewed as another guide about *do's and don'ts* in matters which impact the comforts and conveniences of the home setting. It is *priceless* in more ways than one: Free to access, yet with inherent value beyond what money can buy. To illustrate, here is a very special rendition of an old story about how what we do not know can prove very costly:

\*There were two women- one in tune with the times, the other caught quite a ways back in the past. There were innumerable tiny stones scattered across the otherwise barren 1-acre lot the least informed owned. She hated walking across it barefoot, but there were no durable footwear in the area. She tired of buying more. They did not last long enough. On hearing this, the more privy woman weighed in on the precarious situation, then offered to buy it - but she could only afford \$23,000.

Surprisingly, instead of making a counter offer for more money, the less informed woman paused for a long moment. Uncertain of what the other said, she repeated: *Twenty-Three-Thousand Dollars?* The more advanced inquired if whether the amount was too low. It was all she could afford. But suddenly, a huge smile developed on the owner's face. Her eyes wide with wonder. Sold!

She was very poor. Each day she walked 5 miles to and from her job on a failing pig farm. Although she helped manage it, her salary was very meager. Needless to say, for this solemn woman, living on the edge of poverty, the offer was a Godsend. She reasoned: If she had \$23,000, she could purchase the pig farm for half as much, raise healthier pigs, and become a millionaire!

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The funds were wired the following day. Papers signed. Now the most clever one was the new owner of such *terribly* rocky acreage. The other, former owner, so overjoyed leaving it, that she did not trouble herself packing. Instead, after a grand fury of passionate 'Thank You's!' she ran off to the pig farm. Now she was *richer* than the person who owned it.

Succinctly, she purchased the pig farm for a bit more than she anticipated - \$20,000. But she was content with that since her overhead - all things considered - would be immensely affordable. Little did she know that the stones which troubled her so much on that 1-acre lot - were DIAMONDS - in the rough. The End

There are several renditions of this story. Yet it is clear that it is a tale about one person who knew the value of something which the other did not. Needless to say who benefited most.

### **Summary**

*You Tube* videos which are avoided by millions of private home heads because they are not regarded sensationally entertaining enough, are as the theme of our story of the two women. These immensely conducive videos are daily shunned because we misinterpret their value. We premise our elusiveness on them not being quite what we have in mind by way of reaping positive benefits which will make us smile - or even laugh. We see low views and likes. They factor greatly in our careless judgment of how important and useful they can be in our deciding better in resident-contractor relations.

In retrospect, the overwhelming majority *You Tube* private home viewing audience demeanor is in stark alignment with the moral in the story of the two women. The few who benefit most are those who push beyond our tendency to avoid watching. It may not be replete with lots of laughter and high views, but there is a question we often ask:  
*How did this happen?*

Of course, there are related questions of *where, why, etc.* We may not "*Like*" or "*Unlike*" what we see, but we have to know. Needless to say, there are scores of things we can learn about more effective resident-contractor relations. The brightest side of this situation is that residents who view even one video go away knowing quite a bit more about it than - *the crowd*. Even more, our memories are refreshed about what we should not do. What we did not know, we learn.

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Add to that a very special *genre* of recurring uploads where established businesses have appeared in You Tube videos for contributing to related residential victimization i.e., were not often truthful about the dishonest, ill-witted, contractors they recommended. In this latter case, there is a very hefty portion of irony in that they are still in business doing the *same thing*. *Why?* We are not *studied up* enough.

There is so much we can learn to protect ourselves and homes against the various types of wayward individuals in the building trades – if only we pressed beyond our inertia. Presumably, to some, each of these You Tube videos is *just another story about home improvement fraud*. Yet we can falter terribly with that mindset. Each video *always* has one or more elements which other videos do not. Each has several invaluable lessons we can miss. Many of us do. As a result, we are among the most likely to also experience related consequences. The pity is that these may have been averted simply by something we noticed or heard in a You Tube video.

Conclusively, the next time we see a video about home improvement fraud, we may want to consider what *studying it* can mean to ourselves, home, and property. We just may notice something which will save us the embarrassment. The more we view, the better we do.

There is no reasonable doubt that You Tube is a highly *reliable homeowner resource in resident-contractor relations*. But the most important question: How reliable are *we* in terms of viewing as means toward *ensuring* our hiring decisions are well-grounded?

You Tube is there, but when we devalue the significance of its related videos through avoidance, it is like the poor woman in our story. She did not know what she had. Hypothetically, if only she invested a portion of her time to scoop up a few for careful examination - she will have known! DIAMONDS! You Tube videos, however, are potentially worth far more! Decide well.

**HOME IS THE BEST WONDER OF THE WORLD!**

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

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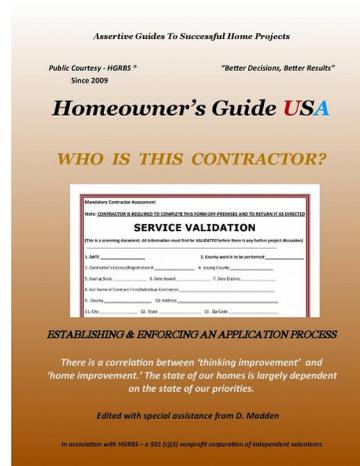
[Public Courtesy - HGRBS®](#)

## 2 Essential Free Home Guides We May Not Want To Be Without

**1. Who Is This Contractor** - Emphasis on how vital it is for each private home head in the U.S. to have an application process for contractors. Tips on how to set it up and follow through to learn who they really are, included.

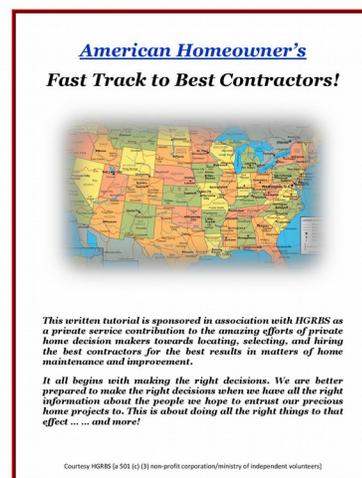
Backup link:

<https://www.hgrbs-flagship.com/resident-strategic-studies.php>



**2. Service Booklet** - It is one of a kind in terms of a homeowner's guide which is customized to fit all major geographic areas of the U.S. It provides vital tips on being more effective in resident-contractor relations, links to related government offices for validating/researching public records on contractors, and more.

Backup link: <https://www.american-homeowners-fast-track.org/service-booklet.php>



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**HELPFUL REFERENCES**

**Catch A Contractor - 1.5 Million Views**

<https://youtu.be/EsNfe6I7PhE>

**Catch A Contractor [SPIKE - HDTV]**

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Catch\\_a\\_Contractor](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Catch_a_Contractor)

**Forbes Report Average 12-hour Daily Internet Engagement At Home**

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/nicolefisher/2019/01/24/how-much-time-americans-spend-in-front-of-screens-will-terrify-you/#53ea585a1c67>

**How Many US Viewers Does You Tube Have? - 201M**

<https://www.statista.com/statistics/469152/number-youtube-viewers-united-states/>

**74-Year Old Bilked - Views: 2011 - 2020 : 3,000**

<https://youtu.be/fKTzVdWdieI>

**Martha Stewart – Views - 2011 – 2020 : 16,000**

<https://youtu.be/0tBStYd8Ioo>

**U.S. Population - 330M - 2020**

<https://www.worldometers.info/world-population/us-population/>

**U.S.Homeowner Rate – 64.8% - 2020**

<https://www.census.gov/housing/hvs/files/qtr319/hown319.png>

**U.S. Homeowner Rate – 64.8% - 2020**

<https://www.statista.com/statistics/184902/homeownership-rate-in-the-us-since-2003/>

**Various Business-Related In Recommending Scandalous Contractors (Self-Search)**

Lowe's, Home Depot, Home Advisor, Angie's List, etc ... [Start with You Tube]

**Worthy Tip: If we want to also search BBB, please beware** - Many businesses with an A+ rating with BBB are not A+ with consumers. We must be very careful since its listings for unscrupulous operations are not always as conspicuous as we may expect. They reveal some, shroud others with an undeserved A+. Careful.

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