

**Homeowner's Guide USA**  
**Homeowner's Taking Charge!**  
**Celebrating New Year's Month**

***Homeowners Taking Charge!***  
***[Celebrating New Year's Month]***

**Preview**

When we have an intact system for validating the *credentials, competence, and reputation* of home improvement contractors, that is otherwise known as *protocol for the home setting*. But for simplifying the expression, we simply say: *protocol*. Even so, protocol without proactivity is like being very thirsty, having drinking water, and not using it to address that immediate need.

Subsequently, although it is great for us to have ways and means for properly validating contractors, when we do not use them, they are of no effect. By that same token, when we opt to learn to be better able to distinguish between honest and dishonest home improvement contractors, but we do not apply what we learn as often as required, then we defeat the purpose of our study.

These homeowner guides can be immensely helpful in the decision making process, but if we only read them without advancing our thinking and practice in relation, we defeat our purpose. Most assuredly, we do well to own the predisposition for *reading our guides with intent on learning and using* everything applicable to our situations. *Proactivity-Versatility*.

**2019: Still Very Much A Brand New Year**

2019 remains a brand new year. But is it really a happy new year or a sad one? Will it be a pleasing new year for us to really boast about when January 2020 is upon us? Who knows?

The one who *knows* is the one who makes it a point of learning and knowing what to do and how to do it before it is done. Some call it prophesy – but in this case it is called *reasonable projection*. When we know what we must accomplish and make conscientious efforts towards learning the nature and potentials of the ingredients, using these *as prescribed* to actually predict the outcome, then rest assured that our 2019 will be even more amazing than the year we left behind.

Question: *If we were shown a way to increase our chances for actually predicting the outcome of our special home projects this year, and to do so with even greater accuracy, would we use it?*

**Homeowner's Guide USA**  
**Homeowner's Taking Charge!**  
**Celebrating New Year's Month**

In these few moments, we are going to consider factors which will practically increase our intuition towards actually predicting the outcome of home projects we authorize residential contractors to assist us with. It all begins with our awareness of the pitfalls ..... the blind alleys, and our determination and individual expressions of power and prerogative to avoid them.

**In This Present Moment**

In the meantime [January 2019], we may want to have no doubt that, as far as the human experience goes, the basic nature of affairs will be pretty much the same among private home heads in our country. That may seem a bit contradictory, unless, of course, we consider the fact that, as in every year before, *some* will win, *many* will lose. Those who win in this regard are those who make the *best possible decisions* premised on enforcing the *best possible information* to that effect, and those who lose are those who make the *worst possible decisions* premised on operating on the *worst possible information*.

Nevertheless, we are optimistic to the extent of knowing that some will operate on home ethics most suitable to making the *best possible decisions* about contractors, and getting comparable results. We happen to be among that number.

**Courtesy Begins With Ourselves**

Unfortunately, there still remain many who are not as assertive about their expectations. Instead, we find that in most reported cases of residents being defrauded, it happened because they treated the situation as they would a *social courtesy*. They did nothing significant to ensure that they were making the right decisions. They just gave contractors the money out of sheer kindness then hoped they were not making a mistake. Needless to say their hopes were in vain.

By contrast, there is yet another group of residents who enjoyed successful contract-related home projects. They did so because they treated their home projects as the business operations they were.

It would not be fair to themselves if they were not courteous enough about their own well-being and the condition of their homes, first. They stayed focused on doing what was right for themselves and their property. For as long as we are similarly fortified it becomes natural for us to be as thorough as possible about obtaining sufficient information on residential contractors before deciding prudently.

**Homeowner's Guide USA**  
**Homeowner's Taking Charge!**  
**Celebrating New Year's Month**

**In Which Group Are We?**

Of these two groups of residents, in which would we much rather be? In the one which played guessing games, hoping they made the right decision? Or in the one which properly validated contractors through careful research *knowing* they made a reasonable choice? Presumably, by virtue of our studying this guide, we opt for the second group. In fact, we are.

**2019 – A New Beginning**

In this moment we are clearly considering this new beginning we have with consideration of another year. We had both successes and delays in 2018. Now we have yet another opportunity for increasing our level of success synonymous to decreasing that of delays.

Undoubtedly, a new year is but a new moment in time and another chance to make things even better than the year before. Obviously in this case it can also mean being happier and more secure in our homes.

**Being More Organized in 2019**

Although it is often said that that *good things always come to those who wait*, often it is more in the vein of *good things come to those who sow seeds accordingly*. When we sow seeds of random decision making, then what we are going to get are comparable results. Most times random results backfire worse than a loose grenade. The reason is that normally that approach is without credible structure. It is just the makings of bits 'n' pieces. And, as we know, when some private home residents do that, they should not be suddenly surprised to see their homes and the rest of their properties resembling bits 'n' pieces as well. This is especially after a quick bout with a slew of randomly selected "*super contractors*."

For sure, our bottom line is that in anything we do, if we expect to really be successful, foremost of all, we need a reasonable goal. That is to say that although we may want or need to get from point "A" to point "B," if what we do at point "A" is inconsistent with what we hope to attain at point "B," then our desire to that effect is worthless. In that case, for as long as we continue in this inconsistent way, we will never attain the sort of point "B" we have in mind.

This can be easily interpreted: If we expect to enjoy specific success in anything, then it is most imperative that we have clearly defined priorities which govern specific approaches consistent with them. Essentially, it is always crucial that we *develop* and *nurture* a system specific to what we hope to achieve. This is most notable to us as a *ways and means*, whereby, we can have a more organized approach seeking, gathering, interpreting, and using information conducive to what we would like to accomplish.

**Homeowner's Guide USA**  
**Homeowner's Taking Charge!**  
**Celebrating New Year's Month**

For better results in 2019, it follows that we may want to hone our priorities for being better organized than we were in 2018. This is evidently premised on making more fruitful decisions. Better organization leads to better decisions. Better decisions lead to better organization. Better organization leads to better results. Each complementary to the other.

**Summary**

There is something which occurs quite a bit during the first month of the year. Quite a few individuals enter the new year with lots of energy and related resolutions. Ironically, before the month of January has ended, they falter badly.

However, speaking in terms of apparent resident behavior this time of year, hopefully it is a safe theory to say that like in anything else we set out to do for the new year, we can vow to make *better hiring decisions*. Yet at first opportunity, we can forsake our vows in that regard. We may opt instead for the *path of the least resistance*. That means neglecting to devote time required for properly validating the competence, reliability, efficiency, and credibility of contractors.

We may want to do everything within our power to ensure that our home protocol in this regard grows continually more efficient than it was last year. The better we get at this, the safer and wiser our decisions for hiring only the best, most reliable contractors to work in, on, and/or around our properties.

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

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

In association with HGRBS – a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit corporation of independent volunteers

[Public Courtesy - HGRBS®](#)