

# Hire competent contractors for your remodel project—please!



by Dawn Burke  
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Many companies in the construction field have either closed up shop or moved away with the down turn in construction. Many of the people who have worked for other contractors have now gone on to start their own business or became a maintenance person (handyman).

Many homeowners feel that it is ok to hire

All I ask is that you consider what you are doing; I know sometimes it may sound cheaper for a maintenance person to do the job. Remember your insurance company does not cover them.

Let's say you hire someone to install a toilet in your home because he quoted a cheaper price than the plumbing company you called. (Handymen will charge for time to learn how to do something on your dime.) When all is said and done, did it really save

and that means the job costs more than it would have to get done right in the first place. So why not just get a licensed professional from the beginning?

Now think if you left town after the handyman's first try starts to fail. How much damage would you imagine that could have caused. Then guess what—the handyman does not have insurance to cover the damages, and your homeowners insurance will not

## “Many homeowners feel that it is ok to hire a handyman for a job that their license does not allow them to do.”

a handyman for a job that their license does not allow them to do. Collier county has a handyman's can and can not do list . You can find it at <http://www.colliergov.net/Modules/ShowDocument.aspx?documentid=20813>. They also call it a Maintenance license. You will be surprised what they are NOT allowed to do. You have to remember trades are called “skilled trades” for a reason. Most of the time these people have been trained and licensed to ensure they know what they are doing. The state tests for plumbing, electric, HVAC and building/general contracting. These tests are two (2), yes two days long 10-12 hours each day. Can a maintenance man/woman know what they know?

you money?

It will take him longer than a trained plumber since plumbers do it all the time. If the handyman gets hurt in your home, you are responsible for the injury. On the other hand, a licensed and insured contractor will have workers compensation insurance.

Suppose that three weeks after the toilet is installed you notice the grout is wet around the toilet. Guess what, you have to pay the maintenance person to come back and try to install the toilet again correctly, and he may not, even on his second try because he is still learning.

So then you have to call a licensed professional to fix the handyman's work and install it correctly,

cover it either since you did not hire a licensed and insured contractor (that goes for plumbing, electric, HVAC, and general/building contractor). So ask yourself how much money did you really save?

Another area that has also come up quite a bit lately is with interior designers. Some consider themselves to be contractors. Please be careful with this as well. So please hire competent contractors for your projects.

Please feel free to email me with any questions @ [Dawn@PlumbingAndConstruction.com](mailto:Dawn@PlumbingAndConstruction.com)

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Lydia Galton  
President, League of Women Voters of Collier County

## Important dates in August

League of Women Voters

**August 9th through August 21** early voting is available for the Primary Election, Monday through Saturday from 10:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. at Immokalee Library, Library Headquarters, Golden

candidate and US representative candidates in the 25th district. Primary Election Day is August 24th. For more information please go to [www.lwvcolliercounty.org](http://www.lwvcolliercounty.org). Vote smart!

**August 23rd** is the first day of school in Collier County. Make sure your children don't fall into the 25 percent of Americans who don't know the name of the country the United States fought for its independence. Help select interesting historical novels and films (and even dolls and toy soldiers) about the founding of our nation to give them a good base of knowledge.

**August 26th** will mark the 90th Anniversary of Women Equality Day --the anniversary of the passage

Against Women (CEDAW). The United States is only one of a few countries that has yet to ratify it. And it is without financial cost. Consider contacting your senators and asking them to stand with women and vote for its passage.

Anytime: As you protect yourself from the fierce summer sun, consider what the sun could do to liberate us from our oil dependency. Write your state representatives about creating and implementing a renewable energy policy for the state of Florida. Our sun and biomass resources should put us on the cutting edge of renewable energy – if our legislature acts. Because we have one of the highest per capita

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Gate Library, Naples City Hall, and the Supervisor of Elections office and right in your own home if you get an absentee ballot [www.voteanywhere.org](http://www.voteanywhere.org). Countywide elections include three school board positions, two County Commissioner positions, and a number of state offices including Governor. The primary will also determine the US senatorial

of the 19th Amendment. It was the struggle for voting rights that led to the formation of the League of Women Voters and although we have many men as members, if is only fitting that we all mark this anniversary with pride. But while we celebrate, we are astonished that the US Senate has failed to ratify the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination

electricity uses in the country, it certainly should. If the legislature would set energy goals, create measurable compliance levels, and incentivize progress, it could create new jobs (in the tens of thousands); reduce emissions in our air; provide real national security by reducing our dependence on hostile oil producing countries. Demand a plan!

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