

media release



MASTERS OF OUR INDUSTRY

Master Builders Association of Victoria
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Unregistered Builders Blitz

Consumers are being urged to check the credentials of their builder prior to their appointment as Consumer Affairs Victoria (CAV) cracks down on the illegal behaviour of unregistered building practitioners across Victoria.

CAV has written to all registered builders in Victoria, warning of infringement notices to non-compliant builders, aiming to boost consumer confidence in the industry.

The Master Builders Association of Victorian has added to CAV's warning, saying clients face a number of risks if they use a builder who is not registered with the Builders Practitioners Board.

Master Builders Executive Director, Brian Welch, outlined several risks for consumers.

"Quite often, unregistered builders will collude with their client to take on the building permit in the client's own name and thus become an 'owner-builder'," Mr Welch said.

"However, the 'owner-builder' has effectively abandoned access to consumer protection. For example, there is no recourse for defective work the builder may leave the owner, other than civil litigation.

"And if the home is sold within seven years, the owner-builder is responsible for repairing any major defects found in the home for up to ten years since completion.

"Registration as a Domestic Builder Unlimited, three years experience, eight references and prequalification for warranty insurance are the minimum criteria for becoming a Master Builder."

Consumers can Find a Master Builder in their area by visiting www.mbav.com.au. Builders who are interested in becoming registered can take part in Master Builders Registration Course by calling 9411 4555 for more info.

Tips for when selecting a builder:

- Ask for the builder's registration number and cross-check with the Building Commission;
- Check the builder has warranty insurance, which covers the project if the builder dies, disappears or becomes insolvent;
- Ask the builder for the details of referees such as previous clients; and,
- Check if they are members of an industry association, such as Master Builders.

ENDS

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