

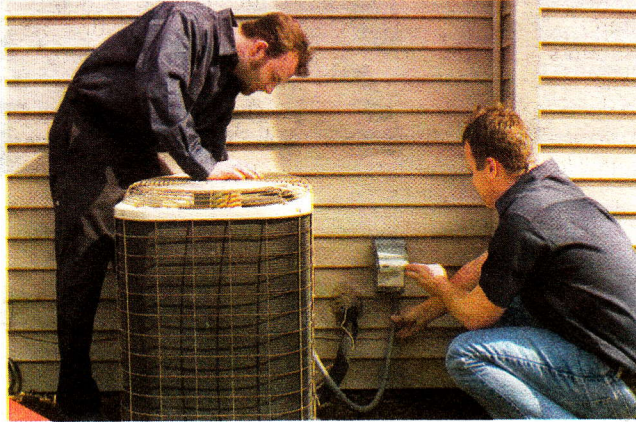
Home & Design

What to look for in a Heating and Air Conditioning Contractor

- Are you looking for a Heating and Air Conditioning Supplier? When selecting an HVAC Contractor it is important to find out how reputable they are. Be aware of 'Cash Grabbers' claiming to give you a better deal by paying cash to keep the price down. Generally these Contractors are unlicensed and when something goes wrong or follow-up support is required, they are no where to be found.

- Be sure you hire a reputable firm with strong values and integrity. A Contractor who plays by the rules makes payments through employer's tax contributions that in turn fund government programs such as pensions, employment insurance, education and infrastructure (to include water, streets, roads, sanitation etc) maintenance and improvements that we all benefit from. A reputable Contractor contributes to our society through regulation and legislation but also by supporting local charities and other local initiatives.

- Referrals and recommendations from friends and colleagues may be helpful. Another way to be certain that a Contractor is reputable is to check with the industry's professional association. Members of the HRAI (Heating, Refrigeration



and Air Conditioning Institute of Canada) have been pre-screened to ensure they possess the necessary up to date Trade Licences, Insurance Coverage and Technical Certifications to perform work to your home or business. You can verify a Contractor's membership by searching www.hrai.ca.

- TSSA (Technical Standards & Safety Authority) administers the Technical Standards & Safety Act as it pertains to fuel related safety services associated with the Heating and Refrigeration Industry. This includes (but not limited to) Safety Legislation and Regulations, Technical Certification and Product Recalls related to Contractors, equipment and appliances that use fuels.

- An HVAC Contractor must be registered with TSSA. These Contractors should have a TSSA number on all

company vehicles and must comply with Safety Standards. The TSSA also monitors the quality of work performed by its registered Contractors. Look for the TSSA number on your Contractor's vehicles. For more information go to www.TSSA.org.

- Call the Better Business Bureau to see if your selected Contractor is a Member or if any unresolved complaints are listed. Check Contractor's websites for the history of the company, testimonials, clients and projects, community involvement and related associations.

- Ask if any government rebates and incentives are available. Find Energy Star qualified products online by entering 'Energy Star Purchasing Guide' for information on energy efficient appliances and tips to improve your home's energy efficiency.

- Never feel pressured into a 'panic' decision – take the time to get written itemized estimates to compare cost, warranties and energy efficiency ratings before you sign any written contract with your selected Contractor. The contract should include the equipment's make, model number, warranty information, price and any negotiated terms or miscellaneous items.

- We are fortunate in the 'Golden Horseshoe' area to have several highly regarded HVAC Contractors with proven track records and many years of experience. Take the time to find and support them!

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