

## Homeowners Are you considering hiring a contractor?

### Did you know?

- When you hire a contractor (for example, a roofing company) to complete home renovations, your home is considered a workplace under the Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) Act and Regulations.
- As a homeowner, you have responsibilities under the OHS Act to ensure that contractors comply with the OHS Act and Regulations.
- An OHS Officer can, at any reasonable time and without prior notification, inspect a workplace.
- If contractors are not complying with the safety rules outlined in the OHS Act and Regulations, an OHS Officer can issue a stop work order until all requirements are met.

### Safety considerations for working at height:

- Falls from height often result in serious injuries or fatalities.
- Working at height requires fall protection equipment and measures.
- All workers wearing fall protection equipment must hold a current certification in fall protection obtained from a WorkplaceNL approved training provider.
- All workers using fall arrest equipment while working at height must be connected to an anchor point.
- As a homeowner, you have the authority to insist that contractors performing work in your home comply with the OHS Act and Regulations.

### Other considerations:

- Hire a Professional Contractor.
- Obtain a written contract from the contractor that states a description of the work to be completed and the roles and responsibilities of all parties.
- Ensure that all necessary permits are in place.
- Ensure that your contractor carries third-party liability insurance. Not only does this protect your property, home, and family, but it also protects adjacent properties, as well as neighbors and anyone else who might come onto your property while work is underway.
- Please be aware, if you hire someone who is not registered with WorkplaceNL, you could be liable for any injuries and/or loss of income if a worker is hurt while working on your renovation.
- To protect yourself, you should contact WorkplaceNL and request a clearance letter to confirm that your contractor has coverage and is in good standing (see link below).

### Resources:

[Working at Height \(workplacenl.ca\)](https://www.workplacenl.ca)

[Protect Yourself - Get it in Writing! - Canada.ca](https://www.workplacenl.ca)

[Request Clearance | Employers | WorkplaceNL](https://www.workplacenl.ca)

[gov.nl.ca/dgsnl/ohs](https://gov.nl.ca/dgsnl/ohs)

**General inquiries:** 1.800.563.5471

**Serious accident line (24 hours):** 709.729.4444

