

# Home Energy Loan Program

## HOW TO CHOOSE A CONTRACTOR

Here are some tips for selecting a contractor, tradesperson or renovator:

### 1. Find trustworthy professionals.

- Collect recommendations from someone you know and trust.
- Consider using the program's **pre-vetted contractor list** on the [Home Energy Loan Program \(HELP\)](#) webpage. Businesses on this list have provided the City with proof of the following:
  - ▶ Registered corporation in Saskatchewan.
  - ▶ Workers Compensation Board compliance.
  - ▶ General liability insurance of at least \$2M.
  - ▶ That they watched a webinar about the program details.
  - ▶ Registration with a third-party warranty organization.
  - ▶ Safety training.
  - ▶ GST Registration Number.

*The City is not responsible for the quality of work contractors perform, even if they are on the pre-vetted list.*

### 2. Collect at least three quotes for each project you are hiring a contractor for.

This allows you to compare pricing as it may vary from different businesses.

### 3. Check references and qualifications.

- Ask for references and check them or read reviews on google, Facebook, the Better Business Bureau, [trustedsaskatoon.com](#) and other places.
- Verify contractor qualifications. If you don't select a contractor from the pre-vetted list, then it is your responsibility to ask for proof of GST numbers, liability insurance, safety training, and warranty information.
- Check if they have additional designations that may be beneficial to your project, such as the [Certified Professional Renomark® Renovator \(CPRR\)](#) designation through the [Saskatoon and Region Home Builders Association](#). The CPRR designation means these certified renovators have met the highest industry standards by completing mandatory education and safety training, and offering third-party warranty protection.

### 4. Hire the contractor of your choice and sign a contract.

- Before you sign the contract:
  - ▶ Read the contract carefully and understand what it says.
  - ▶ Make sure that the contract describes exactly what you want and what you have been promised.
- Ensure the contractor understands the City will pay them directly for work completed **at the end of your project**. The City will not pay deposits to contractors up front but will pay installment payments for work that's completed if your project is over \$20,000 and involves multiple home upgrades using different trades or contractors.