

# Movers' & Shaker's Marketplace

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## Hidden home repair damages - Know when you must turn to qualified help

(NC)—If you're like many Canadians, warmer weather probably gets you thinking about home improvements. In fact, a recent Bank of Montreal study found that two-thirds of us plan to renovate in some way over the next two years. As a nation, we spend \$20 billion on home renovations each year.

You'll want to make sure you get the job done right, though. More than a third of Ontario residents have reported that they have had bad renovations done. And a whopping 36 per cent say they have had to arrange to have unsatisfactory worked fixed after it was completed.

How do you protect yourself? Well, for starters, make sure you get the right person for the right job—and don't attempt potentially dangerous electrical work yourself, hire a licensed electrical contractor. An astounding 40 per cent of Ontario homeowners don't ask for credentials from a tradesperson they hire. It's your right to do so—and a serious mistake not to. Electrical work can be riskier than you think, and only 58% of Ontario homeowners use a licensed electrical contractor when doing electrical work, despite the potential risks. In fact, Ontario law requires

that anyone offering electrical services must be licensed by the province's Electrical Safety Authority (ESA).

Licensed electrical contractors are the only tradespeople legally authorized to oversee electrical repairs and work in Ontario residences. They can provide written estimates and references, arrange all necessary permits and inspections, are fully insured, and send only qualified electricians to do your electrical work, sparing you future headaches, even tragedies, down the road.

"Using a licensed electrical contractor can help you avoid unsafe electrical work and possible problems," says Normand Breton, General Manager, Harm Mitigation with the ESA. "Not only are there risks to property, but there is the danger of injury – even death. Protect yourself and your loved ones. When it comes to hiring someone to do electrical work you can't afford to take shortcuts."

To find a licensed electrical contractor near you or to check the credentials of the person you have hired, please visit: [www.pluginsafely.ca](http://www.pluginsafely.ca).



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