

# HOMEOWNER TIP SHEET



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## Online Resources for Finding an Independent Contractor

### yelp.com

- Pros:** No membership fee; provides many customer reviews; businesses often provide service coupons for Yelp customers.
- Cons:** The site is entirely run by those posting reviews, so there are no background checks on service providers. Service providers can also create multiple accounts to boost their own ratings.

### homeadvisor.com

- Pros:** No membership fee; provides 3-4 quotes from local service professionals, which makes it a good resource for one time service needs; allows for some price comparison; provides many customer reviews; Home Advisor does criminal and financial background checks on all providers; 24/7 emergency homeowner support line. Also provides a cost guide and other home maintenance resources for you to research estimated costs and considerations ahead of time.
- Cons:** Limited to the 3 or 4 providers that the site provides, so limits the number of options you have to review and compare.

### insiderpages.com

- Pros:** No membership fee; Insider Pages compiles listings of all providers they can find through other service listings and the Yellow Pages. It provides a pretty extensive list of service providers, and provides information on a wide number of services needed, included medical health professionals, hair and beauty, pets, and auto services.
- Cons:** Doesn't do background checks on service providers; there are many "sponsored" results that take up a lot of space on the search results page; many providers do not yet have reviews.

### angieslist.com

- Pros:** Offers information about all kinds of service professionals; website is very structured and organized; there is extensive customer service available, including search help and conflict resolution in the event that issues arise with the service provider; discounts available for members from many service providers. Good for people who anticipate many service needs.
- Cons:** Membership fees; (monthly and annual rates available); depending on geographic location and type of service desired, there are not always a lot of existing reviews available. You can call their customer service line before signing up to get a sense of how many reviews exist for your area and service need.