

Finding a Handyperson, Cleaner, Gardener

July 2025

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Search for paid-for support

Often the safest way to find a quality tradesperson is through personal recommendations. Try asking family members, friends, or neighbours if they've used any reliable services for a job similar to yours.

Online Directories

Trust Mark - This is the UK's only government-endorsed quality scheme for trades in and around the home. Each registered company is vetted to meet Trust Mark's standards of technical competence, customer service, and trading practices. You can search for a trader near you using your postcode.

Which? Trusted Trader: This endorsement scheme looks at a many parts of a company, from their admin to their customer references. Only the ones that meet the scheme's standards are put on the website.

TrustATrader: All traders on this directory must agree to a complaints procedure, have a minimum two years of experience, and be a member of the relevant trade association.

CheckaTrade: This website also has checks in place members and allows you to filter traders by the specific tasks you want completed.

Before hiring a trader

- Check if the supplier has the necessary qualifications to do the work. Do they have the right credentials and trade licenses?
- Ask for references, speak to previous customers, and read the supplier's reviews.
- Get at least three quotes for a job and compare the prices. Are materials and labour included in this quoted cost? How about the value added tax (VAT)?
- Find out how long the trader has been in business.
- Get their contact details, including the office address and phone number.

Don't feel hassled when trying to chose a trader. It is worth the time to make sure you are hiring the right team for the job.

Additional resources for choosing the right trader for your specific job:

Choosing an electrician - Electrical Safety First

How to find a good plumber - Trusted Traders Which?

How to hire builders - Trusted Traders Which?

How to Choose the Right Painter and Decorator - Toms Decor

Advice and Tips To Help You Hire The Best Gardener - Which?

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After choosing a trader

- Make sure to give the trader a clear brief, detailing what work needs to be completed as well as aspects like what materials are needed and cleaning expectations.
- Insist on a full written contract, especially for larger jobs, which agrees on final payment and any payments made throughout the service.
- Do not make advance payments. You should only be paying for work that has been done.
- For certain types of work you may need a building regulations compliance certificate. If your trader is a member of a competent person scheme, they can provide this certificate for you.

Islington handypersons scheme

For older residents and those with a disability, Islington's handypersons scheme completes small repairs not usually covered by a landlord - like fitting curtain rails, changing lightbulbs or fixing a minor leak.

To find out if a repair is covered by the scheme and the rate you would be charged, you can contact them:

- From landline phone: 0800 694 3344, then press option 6
- From a mobile phone: 020 7527 5400, then press option 6
- Email: handyperson@islington.gov.uk

You can also visit [their website](#) for more information.

Further Support

AgeUK Islington cannot recommend paid-for suppliers, but we can help you with the process of finding and choosing someone to help.

020 7281 6018

gethelp@ageukislington.org.uk

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