

The DIY Bible

For Hiring Local Trusted Trades & Services

Via - CheckFred.com



- When you need trades or professionals you can really trust.
- When you're tired of finding out 'too late' you're dealing with rogue traders.
- When all you want is 'peace-of-mind' after choosing your 'trusted trade'.

OK, We've all been there, we need a job done about the house but our D.I.Y skills won't quite cut-the-mustard. So you look around for someone else who has the trade or service 'nailed' only to find that the choices you find are overwhelming to say the least. PLUS! You've watched all the Rogue-Trader type TV programmes that have put the Fear-Of-God into you as far as 'Who DO You Trust?' 'How Do You Know If They're Even Up To The Job?' and many more questions that stall your initial enthusiasm.

To be truthfully honest, there is no foolproof way to be 100% sure you've chosen the right trade or service until they've finished the job, and provided the service or sometimes a product, but there are ways to reduce the risks and help you get going forward.

Firstly, there is CheckaTrade.com who have proven to be a pretty good reliable source for genuine referrals. But! Like many of these referral sites, there is room for improvement in the 'reviews' department because the site has got very big and less personal, this will always encourage 'players' to take advantage of the public, just like Amazon and eBay etc have. So you should always take reviews as helpful but not necessarily a guarantee of trustworthiness.

There's also Yell.com who many people still turn to in time of need and who also provide a pretty robust referral system, though not as secure as CheckaTrade I'd say.

A relatively new upstart in the business referral arena of course is Gumtree. Probably as reliable as your local rag's 'Trades & Services Guide'. (*You make your call and you take your chances :-)*)

Now obviously, a personal recommendation is always best! We've had it drummed into our heads time-and-time-again by the TV shows that try their darndest to help. But sometimes the 'help' is often misguided, especially where TV programmes are concerned.....

Are they 'really' the right people to be telling you how to find Trusted Trades & Services?

They mean well no doubt, but have you ever been asked to refer someone to a friend, relative or associate? Were you 'really' 100% confident that you knew beyond a shadow of a doubt that Your Referral was just what they needed?

We are all driven by a desire to 'help' others if we can, and rather than say 'no' we can't recommend anyone, we rack our brains until a name that was lodged somewhere out there in the ether springs to mind, because we half think they're pretty good at the required trade/service needed so we give them the name, number, email etc and send them on their way 'happy' in our own mind that we've been very helpful indeed.

It's OK, we all do it, nothing wrong with that, until a problem arises and that same person comes back to us moaning that they got a bad deal or worse still – ripped off..... It all goes a bit pear-shaped then EH?

This is WHY we shouldn't put that responsibility on friends, family or associates. If we need a Trusted Trade, Product or Service we should definitely go via an independent third party like referral sites. No, not just any old website, one you can be pretty confident with from the start. One that genuinely passes the responsibility of a bad referral 'up' the chain of responsibility so that not just 'any old members' can become a part of the referral service offered.

Below is an excerpt from the fred67.com / checkfred.com website and gives you some idea of 'how' the integrity of that referral website is virtually guaranteed (*but again, not 100%*)

The Full Page is [Here!](#)

Excerpt; “It is hoped that almost ‘all’ of the subscriptions will come from personal recommendations from existing members who have a vested interest in keeping the membership as clean and trustworthy as possible because ‘their’ contact details will be displayed at the head of their recommendees bio-page”.

Every trade/service gets a Bio-Page which tells you in short what the service is, contact details, even the history of the business in some cases, and at the top of every Bio-Page is a link to the Trade/Service provider who actually 'recommended' that business to the website in the first place.

Now obviously, you'd have to be a little Dim to recommend a business that you really couldn't vouch for 100% because it could come back and bite you on the bum pretty severely.

We don't do reviews because we think that's a false promise. What we do though, is to encourage 'anyone' who gets less than 100% satisfaction to report it to the business at the head of their Bio-Page and 'then' to the

CheckFred.com website via the Contact page, when we would take appropriate action, which if substantiated, would ensure the removal of the offending business from the referral system, and if it were serious they would find themselves on the 'Wall Of Shame'.

This will only be displayed on the website 'IF' we ever get such a complaint, but it's not anticipated.

OK That's it for now. Short and Sweet I know, but hopefully it's given you food for thought the next time you're thinking of hiring or even recommending a trusted trade or service.

Remember CheckFred.com

For Genuine Trusted Trades & Services

Please pass this little E-book forward to Friends, Relatives & Associates



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