

Handyman or Specialist? A Home Project Decision Guide

Know how to describe the job, recognize when a specialty trade may be needed, and get a more useful first conversation with a service provider.

HOW TO USE IT • A 10-minute project triage • Check each item as you walk through your home.

01 Often a good handyman conversation

These are examples to discuss, not a promise that every job fits every provider or property.

- ☐ A room-by-room punch list: sticking doors, loose cabinet hardware, shelves, curtain rods and minor trim repairs.
- ☐ Wall patches, paint touch-ups or a focused room refresh after the surface is sound.
- ☐ TV mounting or hanging projects when wall construction and mounting location can be assessed.
- ☐ Small tile, grout or finish details where the underlying substrate is dry and stable.

02 Pause and ask for a qualified specialist

Safety, concealed systems and permits change the answer.

- ☐ Active leaks, new plumbing lines, wiring changes, panel work, gas appliances or HVAC system repairs.
- ☐ Roof work, structural changes, major water damage, mold concerns or unstable surfaces.
- ☐ Work that a local authority requires to be permitted or performed by a particular license holder.
- ☐ Anything you cannot clearly describe without exposing a hidden condition first.

03 Before you call: collect five useful details

A clear first message helps everyone assess the scope.

- ☐ Location: town, neighborhood and whether the property is occupied or seasonal.
- ☐ Task: what is not working, when it started and what you want the finished result to be.

- ☐ Scale: measurements, number of rooms or items, and photos from both close and wide angles.
- ☐ Materials: whether you already have paint, tile, hardware or a TV mount, and any model numbers.
- ☐ Timing: any guest arrival, listing photography, move-in or other real deadline.

04 Questions worth asking a provider

Good scoping protects the homeowner and the professional.

- ☐ Is this work within your scope, and is any part better handled by a specialty trade?
- ☐ What needs an in-person assessment before you can price or schedule it?
- ☐ Who supplies materials and how are changes or hidden conditions handled?
- ☐ What preparation should I do before the visit, such as clearing access or finding matching paint?

05 A sample project message

Copy this framework and make it your own.

- ☐ "I am in [town/neighborhood] and have [number] items in [rooms]."
- ☐ "The priority is [most important result] by [date, if relevant]."
- ☐ "I have photos and [do/do not] have the materials."
- ☐ "Please let me know which items fit your scope and what information you need next."

YOUR NEXT STEP

All Pro welcomes a clear project list. We will discuss fit and scheduling, and flag work that calls for a properly licensed specialty professional. Licensing and permit rules depend on the work and local jurisdiction.

Project notes: _____

Top priority: _____

Read the interactive version at all-pro-home-solutions.pages.dev/blog/ | Call (352) 354-9701

Safety note: This is a planning guide, not a substitute for an inspection. For hazards, active leaks, structural concerns or regulated work, contact an appropriate qualified professional.