

## Getting Quotations for your Home Modifications

As part of your Modification Proposal to the Home and Vehicle Modification® Program, you will need to submit at least two competitive contractor quotations. These quotations must both reflect the same proposed modifications. Prices for goods and services must be reasonable and comparable.

Contractors should come to your home for an on-site inspection to make sure that the proposed modifications will work, and that they will be safe and effective. The inspection will also confirm that the structure of your home can support the modifications, which must meet all professional standards, manufacturer specifications, applicable building codes and zoning by-laws.

Quotations should include:

- all material and labour charges
- applicable permit fees
- applicable taxes
- detailed description of work to be completed
- quantity of each modification, e.g. 3 grab bars

You may wish to interview potential contractors, visit their showrooms, and trial equipment. They should be able to show their experience with accessibility improvements and/or have completed accessible construction training. You may also ask them to provide references. Your contractors must carry liability insurance, and offer a warranty on their products and workmanship.

As you collect quotations, it helps to think ahead and consider the construction process.

Clear communication between you and your potential contractor(s) is important. Be sure to ask questions until you understand what the contractor is telling you. Here are three key considerations when discussing the proposed modifications with contractors:

### **Decision Making:**

Be aware of and satisfied with the construction materials and finishes. Make a commitment to these choices at the beginning of the project; it is not likely that they can be changed once the project begins. The HVMP funds basic materials. You must negotiate any upgrades directly with your contractor(s), at your own expense.





## Home and Vehicle Modification Program

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### Interruptions:

Be prepared for interruption of services during construction. Ask your contractor(s) what they expect the interruptions to be, when they are likely to take place, and for how long. This will help you understand possible changes in service, such as use of water, and will allow you to make alternate arrangements in advance if necessary. You should prepare for inconveniences such as dust and debris, clutter, noise, and odour.

### Providing Access:

Review your home with the contractor(s) to ensure that during construction, there will be access to affected areas such as the electrical system, water source, equipment delivery route, storage, etc.

To locate potential contractors, use community resources such as local newspapers, magazines, medical equipment supply companies, Occupational Therapists, family members, friends, and neighbours.

Online resources include:

- Better Business Bureau:  
<http://lookup.bbb.org>
- Canadian Home Builders Association:  
<http://www.renomark.ca>
- Consumer Protection Ontario:  
<https://www.ontario.ca/page/your-rights-under-consumer-protection-act>  
<https://www.ontario.ca/page/your-rights-when-starting-home-renovations-or-repair>  
<https://www.ontario.ca/page/search-consumer-beware-list>

