

How can I avoid dodgy builders?

Managing your builder

Finding a good contractor doesn't guarantee the whole process will be smoother than a builder's bum. You've got to manage your relationship properly.

Once you've chosen your lovely, reliable builder make sure you get a contract in writing! It's a good idea to include a deadline for finishing each stage of the work.

It shouldn't include any money upfront, though for big projects you might agree to make payments as work progresses.

When you've got the builder round your house be nice and it is ok to make them a cup of tea. But keep an eye on what they're doing. It's bonkers to think that you can just turn up at the end and have the job exactly the way you'd imagined it.

And, one last piece of advice! Don't pay for everything until the job is completely, 100% done. Otherwise you may find your builder loses all enthusiasm for finishing everything off.

Get this lot right and you can be a rogue trader evader!