

Is It Safe to Use a Handyman?

Hiring a handyman can be a safe and effective way to address home repairs, maintenance, and small improvement projects. However, safety depends on several factors:

Key Considerations for Safety

- **Credentials and Experience:** Make sure the handyman has the necessary skills and experience for the type of work you need. California requires a licensed contractor for projects over \$500.
- **References and Reviews:** Ask for references or check online reviews to learn about the handyman's reliability, professionalism, and quality of work.
- **Insurance:** Most handymen do not carry liability insurance. Liability insurance protects you in case of accidental property damage or injury during the job.
- **Written Agreements:** Use a written contract or work order that clearly outlines the scope of work, costs, and timeline. This helps prevent misunderstandings.
- **Background Checks:** If you're hiring through a service or platform, check whether they conduct background checks. For independent handymen, you may want to ask directly or use third-party services.
- **Scope of Work:** For more complex jobs (like electrical, plumbing, or structural work), a licensed specialist may be required for safety and code compliance.

Tips for a Safe Experience

1. Meet the handyman before the job starts, if possible, to discuss details and expectations.
2. Never pay the full amount upfront; a deposit is common, but final payment should follow satisfactory completion.
3. Keep valuables secure and supervise work when appropriate.
4. Trust your instincts—if something feels off, consider looking for another professional.

Conclusion

Overall, using a handyman is generally safe when you take practical precautions. Vetting candidates, ensuring proper insurance, and using clear agreements can help you have a secure and successful experience.