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How to decide whether to do it yourself or hire professionals

There is an innate desire in all of us to '*do it ourselves*', to complete a job that needs doing without requiring any paid help, if possible. Nowhere is this more prevalent than around our own properties.

It is natural to want to take on the role of master-painter, super-installer or apprentice carpenter to save a bit of money. But before going ahead, it is important to think deeply about whether this approach is the right one for you and your home at this time.

Here are some questions to ask yourself to help decide whether to go DIY or hire a professional trades person.

Q. Do you really have time?

It is part of the human condition to overestimate the amount of free time we have available and underestimate how long a certain task will take. We all know someone who says a job will take 10 mins and 2 hours later they are still going at it. So, before you commit, ask yourself: Are you being realistic with your estimated time frame?

Q. Will you be able to accept a less-than-perfect outcome?

Newbies often make mistakes. If that new shelf doesn't quite line up perfectly, or you can see brush marks on your recently painted wall, is that going to bug you for eternity? If so, it is worth considering hiring professionals for your own peace of mind, moving forward.

Q. Will this put undue stress on your family?

Saving money around the house is great, as long as it doesn't negatively impact those around you. Before going ahead, have an honest conversation with your family about whether they think doing it yourself is the right approach.

Q. Is it a challenge you are excited about?

Will you get joy from this experience? Is this something you haven't done before? Or are you just trying to save money? It is important to understand your motivation. New challenges can be exciting and rewarding when completed and DIY projects can be a great way to learn new skills. But if it's a job you already know how to do and taking it on yourself is purely about saving money, then you want to consider the next question carefully...

Q. What is the opportunity cost of doing this yourself?

The opportunity cost is essentially what else you could have done with your time or money if you didn't make this decision.

For example, if you hired a trades person, would that free you up to spend more time with your children? Or take your partner out on a date? Or catch up on other work or with friends? The list goes on. It is important to understand what you might be giving up by taking on this particular DIY challenge.

Doing it yourself is admirable, but it is not always the smartest decision.

Where to find reliable tradespeople?

Part of the reason people take on DIY projects is that they don't have someone they can trust to do the job to a high standard in a reasonable amount of time. Rather than scrolling through google looking for a local trades person and waiting for them to get back to you, it is easier to head to the hardware store, buy what you need and rip into it.

This is where I can help. At Harcourts, we work with a collection of local trades people who help our clients with odd jobs around the house. Get in touch today and let's get you the help you need!