

PRESS RELEASE

New contract will stop home owners being ripped-off

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Home owners in Scotland who have an extension or other building work carried out could be protected from cowboy builders and long legal battles by using a new simple, affordable 'off the shelf' contract launched today (3 June).

The Scottish Building Contract Committee (SBCC) has produced a 'Homeowner Contract' especially for people who are having an extension built, a conservatory added, their kitchen or bathroom relocated, a new garage, a loft conversion or making their home open-plan.

For just £24, home owners will have peace of mind that they have a contract in place with their builder and project manager such as an architect or chartered surveyor.

The contract is so simple there is no need to use a lawyer. The home owner simply writes on the off-the-shelf contract the work to be carried out, amount they have agreed to pay, when it will be paid and what facilities the contractors can access.

The home owner, builder and project manager (if there is one) sign the contract and they are all legally bound to it.

The Homeowner Contract is fair to all parties and uses easy to follow language. And because SBCC is well known throughout the construction industry for its unbiased contracts, the builder and project manager will trust the SBCC Home Owner Contract.

Iain Fergusson, Chairman of SBCC said "A 'word-of-mouth' agreement with a builder is not good enough, especially if things go wrong. For just £24, an SBCC Homeowner Contract can help you protect your investment in your home from the nightmare of cowboy builders and long, costly legal wrangles. It's a small price to pay to have peace of mind and protection."

The new Homeowner Contract can be downloaded from www.sbcconline.com and more information for home owners is available by calling SBCC on 0131 240 0832.

View a sample of the contract here

<http://www.sbcconline.com/documentsample.aspx?docId=26>

Further information:

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Notes to editors:

SBCC – Scottish Building Contract Committee - was established in 1964 by several bodies in the construction industry. It is responsible for amending, drafting and publishing forms of building contracts for use in Scotland. SBCC also promotes good use of building contracts in Scotland and deals with nominations of arbiters, mediators or third party tribunals to help resolve disputes with construction work.

RICS Scotland is one of the founding bodies of SBCC.