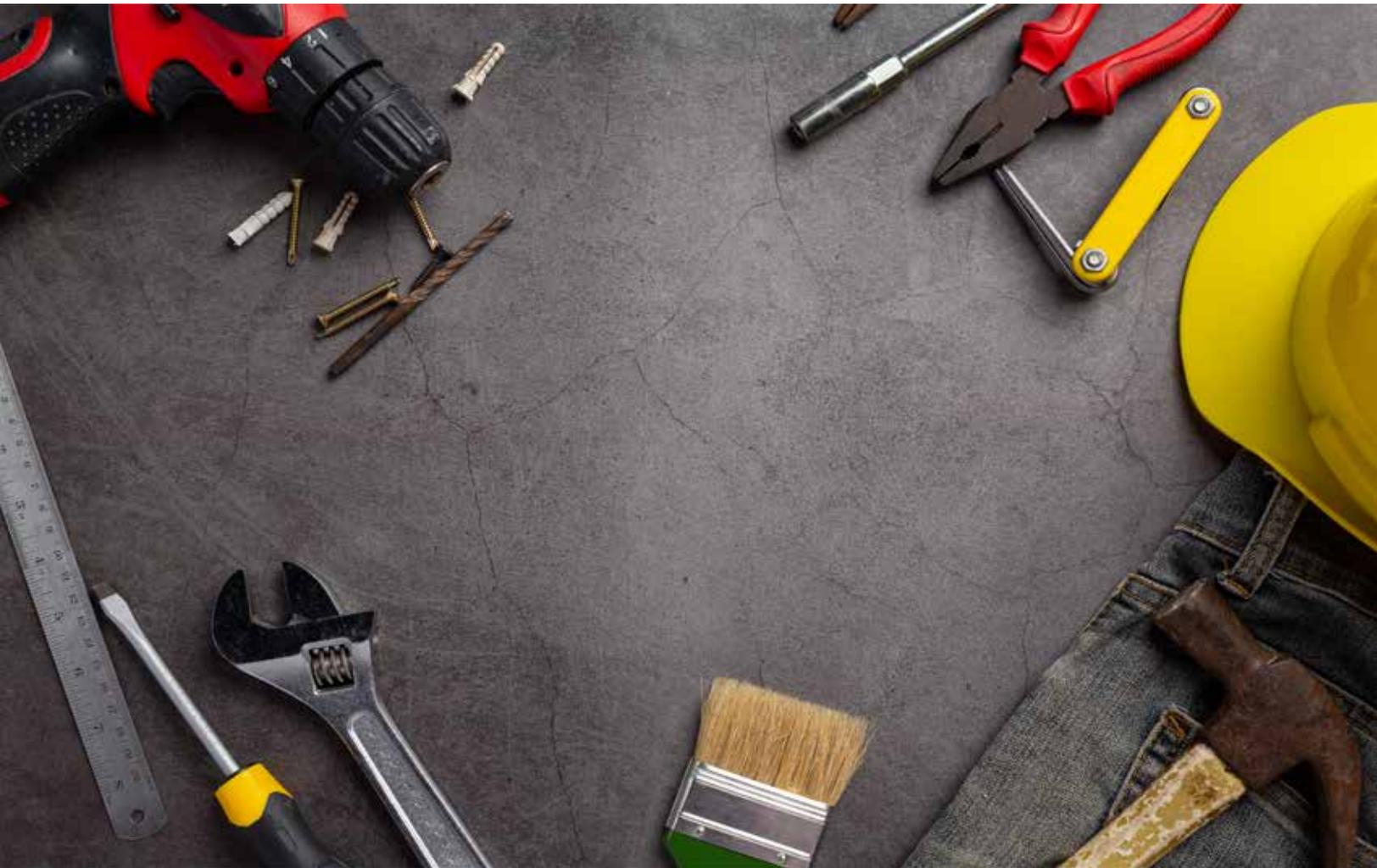




**Your Local  
Home Service Contractors**



# **Handyman Services Explained**

**The ultimate guide to the basics of what  
you need to know about handyman services.**

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# INTRODUCTION

Is it the little projects that stress you? Or the home maintenance? Or the bigger projects that you're not sure who has the experience to do? Maybe it's the dripping faucet or that ceiling fan that stopped working. Are the baseboards coming off the walls? Maybe you have guests coming soon and you're at a loss for where to start—or maybe you're just overdue to feel “at home” in your house again.

Regardless of the size of your house, maintaining it can be a struggle. While you might not have the time or the tools to achieve everything on your to-do list, what you do have is Valor Home Services.

To make your life a little bit easier, we made this guide as a quick overview of everything you need to know about handyman services. We go over the top reasons to hire a handyman, questions you should ask them, handyman tools every homeowner should own and more.

**This eBook will introduce you to the basics of handyman services, to help you with your house repair, remodel or renovation. It's nice to have a guide as well as inspiration to help you plan out and implement any projects or tasks. That's why we created this eBook to help you along the way.**

# TOP 3 REASONS TO HIRE A HANDYMAN

## 01 Get the Job Done Right the First Time

Have you ever started a project and had to start over multiple times? Sometimes the instructions are vague, or you just did something wrong. It is definitely okay to try doing things on your own, and it is alright if you have a few errors along the way. However, if you do not want to redo a task and you want to have a stress-free experience, then go with a handyman. They will get the job done right the first time.

## 02 For Their Expertise

One of the reasons why people hire handymen is because they have the experience as well as expertise. Most likely, you are going to hire a contractor that has years of experience and knowledge. We recommend working with companies that have ten or more years. For example, Valor Home Services has over 20 years of experience. We have seen many different wants, needs and projects throughout the years.

## 03 Can Work on Multiple Tasks

Do you have multiple tasks that need to get done and want them all done in one visit? Well, a professional handyman can help you accomplish your goal. Many small or medium-sized tasks can get done in one day. Typically, we recommend one to three days depending on what all needs work on. Once you work with a handyman, you can watch as they check off your to-do list.

## 04 Saves You Time

While some home projects are swift and easy, many of them are the complete opposite. There are tons of tasks that can take you hours and even days to finish. The more complicated and larger the project is, the longer it will take to complete. And, you, just like many homeowners, have a very hectic life. From working to taking care of your family, you do not always have the time to get everything done. That is where a professional handyman comes in. While they are working, you literally do not have to lift a finger. Instead, you can focus on the other things you have on your plate.

## 05 Have the Right Equipment

Many home projects require specific tools or equipment to complete. If you went and bought these tools, it can cost you thousands of dollars. Ultimately to save you time and money, a handyman is your best option.

## 06 Can Give Advice or Suggestions

The one thing you do not get if you do home projects on your own is advice or even suggestions. Instead, you have to either hope for the best or research. However, if you work with a handyman, they can give you advice or suggestions as well as answer any of the questions you may have. Many contractors will even walk you through the process just so you know what is going on.

## 07 For Safety

There are many dangerous items in your house, like electrical wires and plumbing. One wrong snip or touch of a wire, and you can end up harming yourself or the others around you as well as damage your home. Many people call in a handyman to ensure that their home is in safe hands and to avoid fires or flooding. These contractors have years of experience and the proper training in these fields; therefore, it is best to keep the task to them.

## 08 Better Quality Than DIYing

“I thought I could do it, but I ended up not doing something right” is a statement that we have heard many times over the years. Thanks to the internet and home improvement television shows, everyone thinks they can become a handyman. We want to let you on a little secret, home improvement or remodel projects are way harder than they look through a screen. We have seen some awesome DIY projects, but we have also encountered many botched ones. To save you time, money and stress, go with a contractor if you have never done the task before. Then, while your handyman is there, you can ask questions and watch them finish the job.

## 09 You Have a Busy Schedule

Between balancing work, family, friends and other responsibilities, it is sometimes difficult to get every single project done around the house. With your busy schedule, maintenance and other tasks get left on the back burner, causing them to pile up. Here and there, you may be able to get a few of the easier projects done, but eventually, you will need to get those bigger projects done. Instead of letting everything build-up, a handyman can relieve you of all your stress. Plus, they work around your schedule!

## 10 Cost-Effective

Yes, you do have to spend money to hire a handyman. But if you breakdown the costs that it will take you to purchase all the supplies and equipment, it will add up very quickly. Some tools needed for big or small projects can cost thousands of dollars. Whereas, most handyman services like Valor Home Services will not only have the equipment but will provide the materials needed to accomplish the task. In the end, you will ultimately save more money working with a contractor.

# WHEN SHOULD I CALL A HANDYMAN?

We all heard it. Teachers and parents alike told us that we could be “whatever we wanted” when we grew up. And we’ve loved telling our kids the very same.

And yeah, it’s true. We’re empowered to be and do whatever we set our minds to. But how many hours of experience is required to get some of those whims up to scratch?

When it comes to home maintenance and local handyman projects, just because we can try something doesn’t mean we should—or that we even want to.

## Remember:

Your home is not only an investment, but it’s filled with layers of significance. Any number of leaks, or broken windows, or dust-filled ducts can affect the return on enjoyment you get out of your home every day that you’re in it.

There will always be a DIY solution for lots of issues, but you don’t always have the time—even where you’d like to think that you really could figure out the mechanics of the problem.

And you definitely don’t have the time to figure out something more serious if a fix goes wrong.

Before taking on any DIY project, be prepared to ask yourself (and answer honestly) the following questions:

- **What’s the worst that could happen?**
- **What’s the price difference between DIY and calling a professional?**
- **Do you have a nearby handyman you like? Or think you know where to find one?**
- **How much do you value your time?**
- **Do you need a building permit?**

Thanks to the power of Googling “to fix…” for everything, there are literally millions of tutorials all around the web. YouTube is the main platform to look every DIY recipe up. And sometimes, these things might be easy…but sometimes, they’re not. So, what’s the balance? With your honest answers to the questions above, you’ll know when you should call your local handyman.



# TIPS TO FIND **THE RIGHT** HANDYMAN

- 01 Search for a local handyman using reputable directory resources**

Use any reputable directory resource to search for handyman services ahead of time, and be prepared to compare them against each other. Even Google is a directory resource, because you can see recent reviews from clients. You can also get leads from friends and family—just be sure to look them up on those same directories to get more information.
- 02 Check for fair rates**

Not all estimates are created equal. When you start reaching out to your handyman leads to get quotes, be sure to get a detailed quote to see whether the cost includes all labors and materials.
- 03 Ask what guarantees, warranties and promises are in place**

A hidden part of cost to factor in is what protections are in place for work done. Even the handyman whose service costs you 20% more will be a better deal if there are guarantees and warranties offered in the case something breaks down later. You'll save far more money with these protections in place.
- 04 Ask what other skills the handyman has**

Whatever the scope of the handyman job you need done, what other services does the provider offer? If the handyman also has other lines of service—for example, remodeling, flooring, and similar—then you can be sure they have skilled team members who do more than just the “surface stuff.”
- 05 Ask if they're insured**

Once you have a good feeling about the handyman you're thinking of hiring, ask if their company is insured. This is the final “safety check” to be sure you're choosing the professional who is truly ready to serve.

Discuss your project openly with your chosen handyman at that point. Get everything in writing, and don't be shy about any questions you have to ask. The important thing is that you get the service you need for your comfort and safety at home—and who you invite into your home to do the work is part of that equation.



## Questions You Should Ask Your Contractor

### 01 How long have they been in business?

While looking for a contractor, you are going to want to know how long they have been in business. You are going to want to know if the company has worked with many clients and has had a successful business. Typically, the more time the company has been around, the better service and outcome you will have.

### 02 How long is their workmanship guarantee?

A workmanship guarantee is a refund you get if you are not 100% satisfied with the project's outcome. Some companies do not have this guarantee, while others only allow a small refund. Do not let this happen to you. At Valor Home Services, we offer up to \$500 depending on the job and its size.

### 03 Do they have a dedicated after-hours phone number in case of an emergency?

Emergencies happen, and you are going to want a home service company that has a way for you to contact them after business hours. You never want to be stuck with a company that only handles things Monday through Friday from 9 AM to 5 PM. Remember this is your house, where you want to feel safe and protected. Always feel that way by working with a company that has a dedicated after-hours phone number.

## 04 Will I have a dedicated team working on my job?

Contractors typically work on many projects and houses at the same time. Due to this, they sometimes can confuse homes with each other. That is why you are going to want to have a dedicated team working on the job. You will want to see who will be apart of the team, how often they will come over and who is overseeing everything.

## 05 What is your working day like?

Since you will have multiple people coming in and out of your home for many days at a time, you are going to want to know everything that happens. When you meet with a home service company, make sure to ask what their working day is like. Ask questions like:

- When will they start?
- When do they take breaks?
- When do they call it a day?
- What is the process of the project?

## 06 How will you clean up at the end of the day?

Home projects usually create some messes. Therefore at the end of each day and the end of the project, cleaning up has to happen. Before you let these contractors in your home, question them about how their cleanup works or if you need to make room to store their tools and equipment. Some companies like Valor Home Services will even throw away old flooring or materials for their clients.



# HOME HEALTH **HANDYMAN CHECKLIST**

So, you have plans to get healthy. You have goals and ideas.

What's the next big life event coming up for you? A baby being born? Getting married? An adult kid moving out? How will those events impact your plans to achieve greater health?

For the sake of your health and lifestyle no matter the chapter of your life, have you checked that your home is ready to support you in all your plans?

Valor Home Services talks a lot about "exceptional quality," because it's one of our brand promises. We stand behind our craftsmanship for three years for all our O'Fallon and neighboring area projects.

If you're looking for exceptional quality in delivering your promises to yourself, do what we do: position the resources you need within reach so you can make your goals a reality.

## **Health and Home Maintenance**

So, back to home health. Home maintenance is a key to a healthy and safe environment. If you're trying to eat better, why wouldn't you also think about indoor air quality, or electrical safety, or even the layout of your kitchen and how it impacts how you cook and eat?

When a house is kept in good repair, it's also less like to develop problems that turn into unhealthy environments that are sometimes so pervasive that you only realize they're a problem when something goes wrong. With your home maintenance focused on your health, specifically, you can:

- **Avoid poor air quality in the form of mold, VOCs and allergens**
- **Stop drafts from affecting your home environment**
- **Stop disease-carrying rodents and invasive insects**
- **Protect your household from radon and other gases**

Your health and lifestyle goals require the home condition to support them. Hopefully this resonates with you. If it does, here is a simple, six-step checklist you can take around your home to make notes on what you find.

- 01** Look at the siding around your lower levels, under windows and around your chimney. Take notes on what you see.
- 02** Are there sagging or cracked stoops, steps, or foundation? Any erosion?
- 03** Windows without overhangs or without storms or gutter protection are considered “high-stress windows.” What condition are those in around the exterior of your home?
- 04** Inside, do you have any floors that are soft or unstable, or discolored, especially near exterior-facing doors or in bathrooms? Any cracking kitchen tiles?
- 05** Do you have any cracks in walls inside, especially around window and door corners?
- 06** Does your ductwork sweat?

Use all your senses to observe and take notes. Anything that changes drastically in texture or color is a warning sign that something’s up. Do you see any ants or other bugs? Does the floor squeak? Smell for odors and touch surfaces for dampness.

With your notes, you’re officially empowered. The next step is to call Valor Home Services or your preferred handyman or home maintenance professional. Ask the right questions to find the professional who can support your goals.

# Maintenance Tasks You Should Call a Handyman For

## 01 Hardwood Floor Refinishing

From a distance, hardwood floor refinishing looks simple to do on your own, but unfortunately, many homeowners do not know the ins and outs of this task. We have seen more botched refinishing jobs that left people's floors in worse condition than successful outcomes. So before you get all the supplies and start working on this project, contact a professional team to help you.

## 02 Flooring Installation & Repair

Recently, people have been saving money on flooring installation by doing it themselves. And, many people do know how to install floors, especially since some flooring options like laminate flooring is easy to install. But on occasion, homeowners accidentally mess up and end up spending more money in the end. That is why it is always best to work with a flooring installation team.

## 03 Drywall Repair

Sometimes, we end up with holes in our walls. From nails, screws and unexpected situations, they can pop up at any time. While you can fix a lot of the small holes with spackle, larger holes need specific patch kits. Home improvement stores do sell these patch kits, but sometimes they are hard to understand, especially for newbies. To ensure you have as little mistakes as possible, work with a contractor. They will bring their own supplies and even clear any messes.

## 04 Exterior Upgrades

You can do many small exterior updates and replacements on your own, but the bigger or more complicated tasks need to be done by a professional. Some upgrades are dangerous if not installed or repaired correctly.



# Top Handyman Tools Every Homeowner Needs

## Apollo Home Tool Kit

Every homeowner needs a well-stocked home tool kit. You want your handy tool kit to have everything you need whether it is a screwdriver or hammer. Home tool kits are great to have on hand while you are hanging photos or decorations, screwing screws into smaller items or even making sure everything is level. This Apollo Home Tool Kit has all that and more because it has 53-pieces. The tool kit includes a hammer, pliers, wrenches, screwdrivers, a bit driver and bits. All the tools are heat-treated and chrome-plated for long-lasting durability. What makes this kit so great is that it is under \$45.

## Dewalt Cordless Drill Kit

Drills make setting up furniture or screwing screws way easier. Manually using a screwdriver can take loads of time and can cause hand cramps. Using a drill completes the process within seconds. This Dewalt Cordless Drill Kit includes a cordless drill, two batteries, a charger and a tool bag. It has a two-speed transmission and a brushless motor. Plus, you can easily illuminate your work area thanks to its LED footlight. And if anything happens to the drill, it has a three-year limited warranty, one-year free service and a 90-day money-back guarantee policy.

## Electrical Test Kit

Even though you won't need to test your electricity very often, it is nice to have an electrical test kit on hand. An electrical test kit like Klein Tools Electrical Test Kit comes in handy to measure DC currents and AC/DC voltage and resistance and to detect any wiring issues in receptacles. The Klein Tools Electrical Test Kit multimeter is double insulation for better accuracy and protection and also saves all measurements.

## Dremel Cordless Rotary Tool

For quick, easy sanding projects around the house, this Dremel Cordless Rotary Tool is perfect to use. It comes with a 12-piece set that includes a charger, interchangeable nose caps, a wrench and more. This tool is great for beginners with its four different speeds, lightweight design, soft grip and easy accessory changes. Before the rotary tool dies, it has a LED battery life indicator that goes off to inform you when it is time to charge. The best part is that this tool is compatible with other Dremel tools and accessories.

## Chinex Bristle Paint Brushes

At one point or another, you are going to have a paint project. For small painting jobs, the Chinex Bristle Paint Brushes are the way to go. They come in a variety of brush styles, sizes and handle types. These brushes are great for many types of paint types including oil-based, solid stains, textured, compounds, water-based sealers/primers and water-based urethanes. Chinex paint brushes are easy to wash, so you can use them over and over again.

## Cutting Pliers

If you're building your own tool kit or just want the most basic tools, every homeowner and crafter needs cutting pliers. Cutting pliers make it easier for you to cut through thin pieces of metal or wires. We recommend these Grainger Diagonal Cutting Pliers. They have a wide jaw, so you can easily place thicker items in for cutting. They are lightweight and easy to use. Plus, they are under \$10.



## ABOUT VALOR HOME SERVICES

At Valor Home Services, we change how you shop for your flooring needs. Instead of wasting your time going to one brick-and-mortar store after another, we bring the store to you. Our mobile showroom has flooring samples from lush carpet to easy-care vinyl to beautiful hardwood flooring—everything you need to make a decision is brought right to your door.

By eliminating the need to travel from store to store to get the best deals and variety, we save you time and money by bringing it all to your doorstep. And then, if you need bathroom remodeling, hardwood floor refinishing or handyman projects taken care of, too, you can provide you with a stress-free remodeling or renovation experience with one of our skilled experts.

With our quick, expert installation and helpful, knowledgeable staff, we make it easy for you to get the right floor at the right price. Guaranteed.

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