HOMEOWNER TIP SHEET

Habitat for Humanity of Forsyth County

Online Resources for Finding an Independent Contractor

yelp.com

- ❒ **Pros:** No membership fee; provides many customer reviews; businesses often provide service coupons for Yelp customers.

- ❒ **Cons:** The site is entirely run by those posting reviews, so there are no background checks on service providers. Service providers can also create multiple accounts to boost their own ratings.

homeadvisor.com

- ❒ **Pros:** No membership fee; provides 3-4 quotes from local service professionals, which makes it a good resource for one time service needs; allows for some price comparison; provides many customer reviews; Home Advisor does criminal and financial background checks on all providers; 24/7 emergency homeowner support line. Also provides a cost guide and other home maintenance resources for you to research estimated costs and considerations ahead of time.

- ❒ **Cons:** Limited to the 3 or 4 providers that the site provides, so limits the number of options you have to review and compare.

insiderpages.com

- ❒ **Pros:** No membership fee; Insider Pages compiles listings of all providers they can find through other service listings and the Yellow Pages. It provides a pretty extensive list of service providers, and provides information on a wide number of services needed, included medical health professionals, hair and beauty, pets, and auto services.

- ❒ **Cons:** Doesn't do background checks on service providers; there are many "sponsored" results that take up a lot of space on the search results page; many providers do not yet have reviews.

angieslist.com

- ❒ **Pros:** Offers information about all kinds of service professionals; website is very structured and organized; there is extensive customer service available, including search help and conflict resolution in the event that issues arise with the service provider; discounts available for members from many service providers. Good for people who anticipate many service needs.

- ❒ **Cons:** Membership fees; (monthly and annual rates available); depending on geographic location and type of service desired, there are not always a lot of existing reviews available. You can call their customer service line before signing up to get a sense of how many reviews exist for your area and service need.