



Aussies waste \$3.53b annually on dodgy DIY

- *On average, \$1,500 is spent fixing damage caused by a DIY job gone wrong*
- *Almost 1-in-4 men admit they've required a tradie to fix a job they tried themselves*
 - *Ironically, the main motivator to DIY is to save money*

9 April 2018, Sydney: What would you do with \$1,500? Spend it on a long weekend away, pay down your credit card debt or squirrel it away for a rainy day?

New Galaxy research from hipages has revealed that Aussies are spending an average of \$1,500 fixing damage caused when a 'do-it-yourself' repair, maintenance or renovation job goes awry equating to a whopping \$3.53 billion wasted annually.

"We're a very house proud nation and many of us take inspiration from popular renovation TV programs. However, the research suggests that a lack of knowledge about DIY projects is costing Aussies in more ways than one - often making the issue worse and causing additional financial strain," says Stuart Tucker, hipages Chief Customer Officer.

As many as one in five Aussies, the equivalent of 2.3 million homeowners, admit they have attempted to complete a repair or renovation for their home that went wrong, requiring a qualified tradesperson to fix, or re-do the work. The research found that men (12 per cent) are more likely than women (5 per cent) to say they prefer to do jobs around the home themselves without the help of a professional, though 22 per cent of men admit their dodgy DIY required a professional to fix.

hipages tradie, Chris Smith from Eze-Flow Plumbing recounts a recent job fixing a shonky shower which a homeowner tried to DIY. "A client attempted to install a shower rail and unfortunately drilled through the copper pipe. He wasn't aware of the issue until he had his first shower and water sprayed out flooding the third floor of his house, whilst he was enjoying his shower completely oblivious to the chaos he'd created! He needed more than a bath mat to mop that mess up!"

Across the generations, the adage that the older you are, the wiser you are proved true, with Gen Y's the biggest culprits of DIY disasters (27 per cent) followed by Gen X (19 per cent), Traditionalists (17 per cent) and then Baby Boomers (16 per cent). Gen Y (81 per cent) and Gen X (77 per cent) are also more likely than Baby Boomers (68 per cent) and Traditionalists (62 per cent) to say the main motivation for DIY is to save money. This motivation was also most prevalent for those living in Western Australia (79 per cent).

"It's unsurprising that in the current economic climate, homeowners are searching for ways to save money, though misjudging projects can be costly. We encourage homeowners to save money through smart decision making, including comparing quotes and using qualified, licensed tradespeople to get the job done right, the first time" says Mr Tucker.

The Galaxy research highlighted that almost half of Australian homeowners find great enjoyment getting their hands dirty and managing a job themselves, with 46 per cent of men agreeing that DIY gives them a greater sense of satisfaction and 38 per cent saying they really enjoy working on their home.

Encouragingly, there are a number of homeowners who recognise most jobs require the diligent work of a qualified, licensed tradesperson with 64 per cent of Aussies saying they'd hire a tradie as they themselves lack the knowledge and skills to complete the work. One in three homeowners also say that using a professional tradesperson gives them peace of mind with another 37 per cent recognising that it saves them time.

To help homeowners make informed decisions about jobs around the home, hipages has developed a list of typical tasks that should not be undertaken as DIY and actually require the work of a qualified tradie;

1. **Painting or wallpapering** - Painting and wallpapering can be particularly time consuming jobs, and you'll need to consider potential hazards like working on ladders and dealing with solvents and dust. With this in mind, you should seriously consider whether the pros of doing the job yourself would outweigh the cost of hiring a professional.
2. **Repairing property damage** - Property damage may range from clogged drains to leaky roofs and water damage, so when considering whether to tackle a job yourself or bring in a professional, you'll need to look at the scale of the job, the risks involved, and what sort of time commitment would be required.
3. **Home extensions and renovations** - When it comes to DIY projects, the onset of reality TV renovation shows has given people a false perception of the work involved and the potential for costly mistakes. Registered builders are well-versed with the building process and understand how to keep a build on schedule with quality control in check, while maintaining safety standards.
4. **Electrical jobs** - Electrical work should never be attempted without the help of a properly licensed electrician due to the high risks associated with DIY-ing electrical work - in fact, in some State's you're required to use a licensed tradie even to change your light bulbs!
5. **Plumbing jobs** - Although simple plumbing jobs such as unclogging a drain or fixing a leaky tap can usually be tackled by an amateur handyman without any problems, larger repairs or installations should never be attempted without the help of a professional plumber.

hipages is an Australian platform designed to make hiring a trusted, qualified tradie as easy as possible. Homeowners can receive up to three quotes from local tradies for jobs posted to the platform, allowing negotiations on price and timings of jobs. All tradies are licensed professionals, verified regularly by hipages.

Since 2004 hipages has helped over 1.5 million Australians get jobs done around their home, and will continue to help make this an easy, hassle-free experience for homeowners and tradies.

- ENDS -

Notes to Editors:

The survey was conducted by Galaxy Research amongst a nationally representative sample of 1,111 Australians 18 years and older who are homeowners. For the purposes of this research Gen Y are those aged 18 - 34 years old, Gen 35 - 49, Baby Boomers 50 - 64 and Traditionalists 65+.

About hipages

hipages is transforming the way people get things done around their home. Founded in an Aussie garage 14 years ago by two great mates, hipages helps Aussies find verified and licensed tradies in their local area while helping tradies grow their business through innovative technology, finding them more local jobs, which they can manage on the go. With over, 130,000 tradies listed in 1,300 categories and over 100,000 jobs posted by Australian consumers every month, hipages is Australia's number one place to hire qualified, trusted and verified tradespeople - www.homeimprovementpages.com.au.

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