



2025 Diamond Certified Home Service Calendar



DIAMOND CERTIFIED EXPERT CONTRIBUTIONS



Fred Ramos

Owner, Star Rooter and Plumbing, Inc.

Trenchless Sewer Replacement

In the past, replacing a sewer line required a full excavation—an expensive, time-consuming and often disruptive process. Fortunately, thanks to advancements in plumbing technology, this is no longer the case. With trenchless sewer replacement, a damaged pipe can be replaced quickly, easily and with remarkably little mess.

Call: (510) 402-5764

Read More: www.dccert.org/fredramos



David Cook

President, Cook's Kitchen & Bath, Inc.

Storage Considerations for Remodeling

If you want to remodel your home because you think you need more storage, consider that what you actually need is more accessible and organized storage. Builder-grade cabinets aren't designed with accessibility in mind, so it's often better to focus on changing the functionality of your cabinets rather than adding more.

Call: (925) 405-5944

Read More: www.dccert.org/davidcook



Vic Cvijanovic

Owner, Pacific Landscaping

Working With a Landscaper

Even if your landscaper has good ideas, they should never be implemented without your approval. Prioritize meeting with your landscaper every morning for the duration of your project. That way, you can ask questions and find out if they plan to make any revisions to the original blueprint.

Call: (925) 526-5983

Read More: www.dccert.org/viccijanovic



Taro Martinez

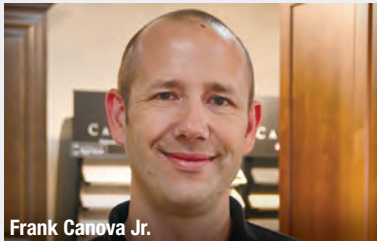
President, Martinez Stair Company Inc.

Hardwood Flooring for Stair Treads

If you're planning to use hardwood flooring for staircase steps, consider using a prefinished product. Prefinished flooring goes through a curing process that makes it supremely resistant to surface damage. Also, since it's moisture-resistant, your steps will be less likely to develop creaks from expansion and contraction.

Call: (925) 303-4238

Read More: www.dccert.org/taromartinez



Frank Canova Jr.

President, Diablo Valley Cabinetry

Preventing Cabinet Water Damage

Over time, latent moisture can damage your wood cabinets. To avoid this, promptly wipe up spills with a microfiber cloth (don't use paper towels—their abrasiveness can harm the cabinets' finish). Also, don't hang hand-drying towels over your cabinets—these tend to hold a lot of moisture, which can get transferred to the wood.

Call: (925) 709-4920

Read More: www.dccert.org/frankcanova

ON OUR WEBSITE: WINTER



Are you ready for cold weather, holiday get-togethers and everything else that comes along with winter? Visit our website for helpful tips and articles, and find top rated professionals near you.

diamondcertified.org/Guide/Winter



Alan Robinette

President, Window-ology

Motorized Window Coverings

Before installing motorized window treatments, you'll need to think about your preferences for operation. Do you want to connect them to your smart home system, voice assistant or cellphone? Do you just want to use a remote control? Each of these options is possible, but some are simpler than others.

Call: (510) 621-7927

Read More: www.dccert.org/alanrobinette

DECEMBER 2024



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY																																																																																					
1	2	3	4	5	6	7  Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day																																																																																					
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22	23	24	25  Christmas Day and Hanukkah Begins	26	27	28																																																																																					
29	30	31			<p>November 2024</p> <table border="1"> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td></tr> <tr><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td></tr> <tr><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td></tr> <tr><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td></tr> </table>	S	M	T	W	T	F	S						1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	<p>January 2025</p> <table border="1"> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td></tr> <tr><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td></tr> <tr><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td></tr> <tr><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td></tr> </table>	S	M	T	W	T	F	S						1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
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DIAMOND CERTIFIED EXPERT CONTRIBUTIONS



Christopher Wells

Owner, Christopher Wells Construction, Inc.

Assessing Your Home's Foundation

To check the condition of your home's foundation, perform this simple test: go down to your basement with a hammer or screwdriver and attempt to scrape off a piece of the foundation concrete. If you're successful, it might be time to call a structural engineer for a professional assessment.

Call: (415) 347-6907

Read More: www.dccert.org/christopherwells



Richard Estrada

President, ATCO Pest Control

Rodent-Proofing Your Home

To prevent rodent infestation, inspect your home exterior and seal any holes that are larger than a dime. Don't just fill them with steel wool—cover them with 1/4-inch galvanized hardware cloth. This will be more effective at keeping rodents out, as they won't be able to chew or poke through it.

Call: (415) 523-5737

Read More: www.dccert.org/richardestrada



Juan Sandoval

President, Carol Flynn, Inc.

Advice for Duct Cleaning

The effectiveness of duct cleaning depends on who performs it and what type of equipment they use, so be sure to choose a company that has the right equipment and expertise. Expect a high-quality company to use sophisticated equipment like HEPA vacuums to thoroughly remove dirt and pollutants.

Call: (650) 530-0965

Read More: www.dccert.org/juansandoval



Gary Ryan

CFO, Ryan & Ryan Construction, Inc.

Building Permits in Remodeling

Neglecting to get required permits for a remodeling project puts you at risk for several consequences. Besides being fined up to 10 times the cost of each permit, your project will be "red tagged," which means work will be halted until all fines are paid. Don't gamble—get all necessary building permits before the work begins.

Call: (650) 588-0547

Read More: www.dccert.org/garyryan



Sergiu Deac

President, Best Construction

Code Compliance in Construction

An important aspect of any building project is making sure things are done to code, which isn't easy in California, where building codes are very stringent. To avoid making expensive mistakes like buying non-compliant fixtures, partner with your contractor and/or designer to ensure code compliance at every level.

Call: (650) 718-5789

Read More: www.dccert.org/sergiudeac

ON OUR WEBSITE: GENERAL HEALTH & WELLNESS



Start 2025 off on the right foot by taking steps to improve your health and wellness. Visit our website for helpful tips and articles, and find top rated professionals near you.

diamondcertified.org/Guide/General-Health-Wellness



David Robb

Partner, Robb & Messer Moving and Storage (North)

Getting Organized With Moving

When packing for a move, be proactive about organization. Label every box with the general items it contains and the room it will ultimately go into. To ensure visibility, boxes should be labeled on two sides. Also, to avoid confusion, confine all items that aren't going in the moving truck to a designated area.

Call: (408) 763-3542

Read More: www.dccert.org/davidrobb

JANUARY 2025



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>December 2024</p> <p>S M T W T F S</p> <p>1 2 3 4 5 6 7</p> <p>8 9 10 11 12 13 14</p> <p>15 16 17 18 19 20 21</p> <p>22 23 24 25 26 27 28</p> <p>29 30 31</p>	<p>February 2025</p> <p>S M T W T F S</p> <p>1</p> <p>2 3 4 5 6 7 8</p> <p>9 10 11 12 13 14 15</p> <p>16 17 18 19 20 21 22</p> <p>23 24 25 26 27 28</p>		<p>1</p> <p>2025</p> <p>New Year's Day</p>	2	3	4
5	6	<p>7</p>  <p>Digital Update Winter Edition</p>	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	<p>20</p>  <p>Martin Luther King Jr. Day</p>	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	<p>29</p>  <p>Chinese New Year</p>	30	31	



DIAMOND CERTIFIED EXPERT CONTRIBUTIONS



William Young
Owner, Edge Roofing

The True Cost of Missing Gutters

If you own a home that doesn't have roof gutters, you may have been dissuaded from installing them due to the cost involved. However, the cost of installing gutters is far less expensive than the cost of repairing foundation damage and other problems that inevitably result from not having them.

Call: (650) 453-8936
Read More: www.dccert.org/williamyoung



Mike Im
President, Im Roofing Company

Lifetime Shingle Warranties

While all roof shingles come with limited lifetime warranties, they aren't all equal in quality. Most manufacturers offer different quality tiers for their products, each varying in weight, thickness and performance. That's why it's crucial to know exactly what you're getting when having your roof replaced.

Call: (415) 878-3187
Read More: www.dccert.org/mikeim



Joel Gruber
Owner, Gruber Painting

Choosing White Paint

Choosing the right shade of white for an interior painting project isn't as simple as it sounds. Not only is there a surprisingly wide variety of shades and hues to choose from, you also need to account for all the existing whites in your home, like white doors, windows, ceilings, cabinets and appliances.

Call: (650) 741-0231
Read More: www.dccert.org/joelgruber



Merlyn DeLeon
Office Manager, AMS Construction

Choosing Remodeling Materials

When remodeling your home, it's best to decide on all products and materials early—that way, your contractor can make sure they're a good fit for the remodel and order them in a timely manner. Working with your contractor will also help ensure accuracy with things like measurements and quantities.

Call: (415) 801-4053
Read More: www.dccert.org/merlyndeleon



Faren Reyes
Owner, Discover Plumbing & Rooter

Maintaining Outdated Plumbing

Can't afford to update your outdated plumbing system? The next best thing you can do is maintain it. For example, if you have trouble with your sewer and drain pipes getting clogged up, have them hydro-jetted by a plumber every three to six months—this will keep them working and avoid backups.

Call: (650) 898-7933
Read More: www.dccert.org/farenreyes

ON OUR WEBSITE: HOME CLEANING & ORGANIZING



Does your home need a top-to-bottom cleaning? Visit our website for helpful tips and articles, and find top rated professionals near you. diamondcertified.org/Guide/Home-Cleaning-Organization



Troy Scott
Owner, Heavenly Greens

Artificial Turf Base

Unlike a natural lawn, an artificial turf lawn requires a strong base underneath to provide support. Additionally, the base needs to be permeable in order to facilitate proper drainage. It's recommended for most artificial turf installations to have a base that's at least three inches thick.

Call: (650) 735-3383
Read More: www.dccert.org/troyscott

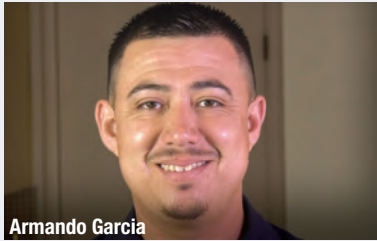
FEBRUARY 2025



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>January 2025</p> <p>S M T W T F S</p> <p>1 2 3 4</p> <p>5 6 7 8 9 10 11</p> <p>12 13 14 15 16 17 18</p> <p>19 20 21 22 23 24 25</p> <p>26 27 28 29 30 31</p>	<p>March 2025</p> <p>S M T W T F S</p> <p>1</p> <p>2 3 4 5 6 7 8</p> <p>9 10 11 12 13 14 15</p> <p>16 17 18 19 20 21 22</p> <p>23 24 25 26 27 28 29</p> <p>30 31</p>					1
<p>2</p>  <p>Groundhog Day</p>	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	<p>12</p>  <p>Lincoln's Birthday</p>	13	<p>14</p>  <p>Valentine's Day</p>	15
16	<p>17</p>  <p>Presidents' Day</p>	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	<p>28</p>  <p>Ramadan Begins</p>	



DIAMOND CERTIFIED EXPERT CONTRIBUTIONS



Armando Garcia

Owner, San Jose Heating & Cooling

Attic and Crawl Space Inspections

Attics and crawl spaces are common areas for problems to go unnoticed. For example, rats often take up residence in attics, while crawl spaces are prime locations for mold and termites to strike. To avoid problems, inspect these areas of your home every six months.

Call: (650) 212-5665

Read More: www.dccert.org/armandogarcia



Shem Isaac

President, Home Living Window Fashions

Window Covering Trends

When choosing a window covering, be aware of current trends. For example, many people are moving away from lift cords because of safety and aesthetic reasons. Instead, they're looking into manual cordless options and motorized options that don't have exposed cords.

Call: (415) 493-8979

Read More: www.dccert.org/shemisaac



Rick Telly

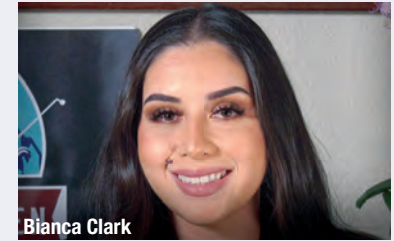
CEO, Unique Pavers

Designing an Outdoor Kitchen

While it's a big project, an outdoor kitchen can truly pay off by improving your quality of life and increasing your home's resale value. When designing an outdoor kitchen, be sure to consider the full range of available features. From pizza ovens and paella burners to refrigerators and ice makers, the possibilities are almost limitless!

Call: (650) 686-5509

Read More: www.dccert.org/ricktelly



Bianca Clark

Operations Manager, Mighty Men Services, LLC

Pest Prevention

Be proactive about keeping your home pest-free. Your pest control contractor can help you troubleshoot, especially if you're having recurring problems or there are large wildlife or pest populations in your area. Fences, barriers, inspections and regularly checked traps can help keep unwanted intruders at bay.

Call: (415) 484-5041

Read More: www.dccert.org/biancaclark



Dan Ford

Owner, CertaPro Painters of the Peninsula & South Bay

Choosing a Primer for Stucco

Previously painted stucco doesn't provide much in the way of absorption, so it's important to choose a product that will hang on to the stucco effectively. The preferred product in this situation is masonry primer, which doesn't require a lot of absorption in order to bind to a surface.

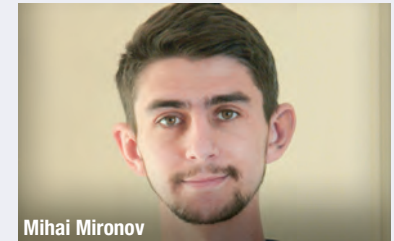
Call: (650) 273-5403

Read More: www.dccert.org/danford

ON OUR WEBSITE: SPRING



From cleaning up your yard to starting an exterior painting project, spring is an ideal time for getting your home ready for a new year. Visit our website for helpful tips and articles, and find top rated professionals near you. diamondcertified.org/Guide/Spring



Mihai Mironov

Owner, H & T Flooring

Hardwood Flooring Maintenance

Well-maintained hardwood floors add beauty and value to homes, but wear and damage can add up, leaving floors looking ragged and homeowners considering repair, refinishing or replacement. A trusted, local flooring contractor can provide direction on what option is best for your particular situation.

Call: (650) 605-3926

Read More: www.dccert.org/mihaimironov

MARCH 2025



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>February 2025</p> <p>S M T W T F S</p> <p>1</p> <p>2 3 4 5 6 7 8</p> <p>9 10 11 12 13 14 15</p> <p>16 17 18 19 20 21 22</p> <p>23 24 25 26 27 28</p>	<p>April 2025</p> <p>S M T W T F S</p> <p>1 2 3 4 5</p> <p>6 7 8 9 10 11 12</p> <p>13 14 15 16 17 18 19</p> <p>20 21 22 23 24 25 26</p> <p>27 28 29 30</p>					1
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<p>9</p>  <p>Daylight Saving Time Begins</p>	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	<p>17</p>  <p>St. Patrick's Day</p>	18	19	<p>20</p>  <p>Spring Equinox</p>	21	22
<p>23</p>  <p>Ramadan Ends</p> <p>30</p>	<p>24</p> <p>31</p>	25	26	27	28	29



DIAMOND CERTIFIED EXPERT CONTRIBUTIONS



Feliz Inzunza

Owner, South Creek Roofing & Waterproofing Inc.

Annual Roof Inspections

Make it a point to have your roof inspected every year before the rainy season starts. This will allow a professional to check the condition of your roof and address any potential issues or needed repairs. That way, you can rest assured that your roof is in fit condition to weather the coming storms.

Call: (650) 866-5927

Read More: www.dccert.org/felizinzunza



Joel Ledesma

Owner, Atlas Plumbing & Rooter

Sewer Cleanout Caps

While sewer cleanouts often have hard caps that cover the pipe opening, it's better to have a "soft" cap installed. Commonly known as a relief valve or "popper," this type of cap has a valve that lifts up to allow sewage to escape from the pipe (rather than into your home) when a sewer backup occurs.

Call: (415) 347-6967

Read More: www.dccert.org/joelledesma



Ralph Bunje Jr.

CEO, Independent Exchange Services, Inc.

1031 Exchange Caveat

If you're considering a 1031 property exchange, keep in mind that the provision is only for investment and business properties, so you can't swap your primary residence for another home. There are ways you can use a 1031 for swapping vacation homes, but this loophole is much narrower than it used to be.

Call: (415) 742-1989

Read More: www.dccert.org/ralphbunjejr



Elliot Goliger

President, Artisans Landscape

California Native Plants

If you want to make your garden more sustainable, consider installing California native plants. These plants have adapted to local conditions, so they require less water and upkeep than other species. Also, native gardens support wildlife like insects and birds, both of which are vital to a thriving ecosystem.

Call: (415) 594-9090

Read More: www.dccert.org/elliottgoliger



Mike Rebholtz

General Manager, Alternative Heating & Air Conditioning Solutions, Inc.

Air Duct HERS Testing

Due to a Title 24 requirement, if you're planning to replace your furnace, you'll need to submit your air ducts to a HERS test to assess their efficiency. To pass, your ducts must have less than 15 percent leakage—otherwise, you may need to replace them as well.

Call: (650) 539-9722

Read More: www.dccert.org/mikerebholtz

ON OUR WEBSITE: HOME REMODELING



Is a home remodeling project on your to-do list this year? Visit our website for helpful tips and articles, and find top rated professionals near you. diamondcertified.org/Guide/Home-Remodeling



Jeff Sheehan

Owner, Confidence Landscaping, Inc.

"Needs-Based" Approach to Landscape Irrigation

To determine how often your plants need to be watered, turn off your automatic irrigation timer and wait for them to show signs of stress. By repeating this process a few times and taking note of the time frames, you'll be able to create a "needs-based" irrigation schedule.

Call: (408) 559-1800

Read More: www.dccert.org/jeffsheehan

APRIL 2025



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DIAMOND CERTIFIED EXPERT CONTRIBUTIONS



Yefim Skomorovsky

Owner, Classic Shades Painting Co.

Creating a Color Scheme

A common technique for choosing paint colors is using a “monochromatic color scheme,” which consists of various shades of a single hue. To add further intrigue to a monochromatic color scheme, consider introducing a complementary color (a totally different color that pairs nicely with your primary hue).

Call: (415) 529-6958

Read More: www.dccert.org/yefimskomorovsky



Quan Phan

Owner/President, GBA Realty

Insurance Tip for Property Owners

If you’re moving to a second home and keeping your first as a rental property, make sure you update the first home’s insurance policy to a renter’s insurance policy. Having the correct insurance policy is crucial for avoiding unnecessary costs in the event of an issue with a tenant or the property itself.

Call: (415) 689-1271

Read More: www.dccert.org/quanphan



Steve Spratt

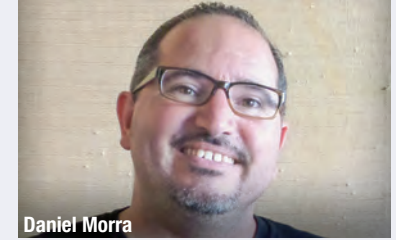
President/Founder, HPS Palo Alto, Inc.

Low-Maintenance Gutter Features

Many modern gutter and downspout systems are equipped with features that simplify maintenance, such as demountable downspouts and trap door clean-outs. If your drainage system doesn’t have these types of features, consider installing a gutter protection system, which keeps debris out while allowing water to pass through.

Call: (888) 844-0007

Read More: www.dccert.org/stevespratt



Daniel Morra

President, Innovation Painting Plus

An Alternative for Cleaning Paintbrushes

When cleaning your brushes after an oil-based painting project, consider using a natural alternative to conventional solvents. Vegetable oil has the same effect as paint thinner and none of the toxicity, so you don’t have to worry about getting it on your skin or breathing in noxious fumes.

Call: (415) 275-1070

Read More: www.dccert.org/danielmorra



Kevin McCaffrey

Sales Manager, Armstrong Carpet & Linoleum Co.

Manufactured Wood Flooring

Due to the moist, coastal climate of the Bay Area, a manufactured wood floor is a smart choice because it provides better stability and moisture resistance than natural hardwood. Additionally, since it offers a wide variety of aesthetic and installation options, it’s easy to find a product that meets your needs.

Call: (415) 754-3955

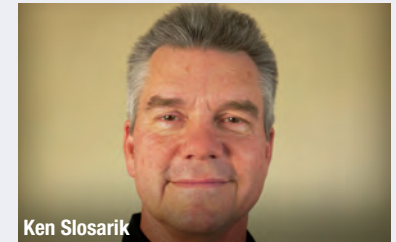
Read More: www.dccert.org/kevinmccaffrey

ON OUR WEBSITE: PAINTING, COATING & EXTERIORS



If you’re looking to revitalize your living space, a painting project is a great place to start. Visit our website for helpful tips and articles, and find top rated professionals near you.

diamondcertified.org/Guide/Painting-Coating-Exteriors



Ken Slosarik

Owner, El Gato Painting & Restoration, Inc.

The Importance of Priming

Primer and paint work as a team: the primer gives the paint a clean, stable surface to stick to, while the paint provides pigment and ultraviolet protection. Before applying primer, prepare the surface by using sandpaper to scrape off any old paint. Once the area is sanded and clean, you’re ready to prime.

Call: (650) 666-6384

Read More: www.dccert.org/kenslosarik

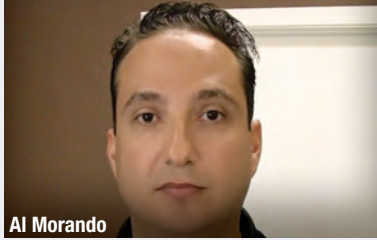
MAY 2025



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<p>11</p>  <p>Mother's Day</p>	12	13	14	15	16	17
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25	<p>26</p>  <p>Memorial Day</p>	27	28	29	30	31



DIAMOND CERTIFIED EXPERT CONTRIBUTIONS



Al Morando
President, Innovative Mechanical, Inc.

An Alternative to Indoor Air Cleaners

Indoor air cleaners are growing in popularity, but many people don't realize that most of them produce ozone, which is a known lung irritant. Instead of relying on an indoor air cleaner, consider using the "fan only" setting on your furnace—it'll filter and re-circulate air throughout your home.

Call: (415) 669-4985
Read More: www.dccert.org/almorando



Cameron Radonich
Marketing Director, Los Gatos Roofing

"Cool Roof" Technology

Installing a roofing product that utilizes cool roof technology can reduce the surface temperature of your roof by as much as 60 degrees on a hot day. Available in asphalt shingles and clay/concrete tiles, cool roof products also save energy and, in many cases, qualify for federal tax credits.

Call: (650) 718-5792
Read More: www.dccert.org/cameronradonich



Gerry Reyes
Owner, Aren Electric Co., Inc.

GFCI Protection Requirements

Kitchens and bathrooms aren't the only places where GFCI protection is legally required: California building code also requires GFCIs for all garage outlets within 6 feet of a sink or similar water source. Other areas where GFCI protection may be required include basements, laundry and utility rooms, and boathouses.

Call: (650) 564-3636
Read More: www.dccert.org/gerryreyes



Jennifer Young
Owner, Elite Pro Home Cleaning

Liability Coverage in House Cleaning

Before hiring a cleaning company, verify that it carries workers' compensation insurance. This legally-required insurance protects you from liability in the event that an employee becomes injured while working in your home. Without it, you could be held responsible for the worker's lost wages and hospital bills.

Call: (650) 720-5986
Read More: www.dccert.org/jenniferyoung



Gary Lekan
Owner, First Lock & Security Technologies

Deadbolt Functionality

The most important function of a door's deadbolt is its ability to "throw" fully, which is denoted by a clicking sound when you lock it. When the hole in the adjacent door jamb strike plate isn't deep enough, it can block the deadbolt from throwing fully. To fix this, use a drill or other tool to deepen the hole.

Call: (650) 204-4376
Read More: www.dccert.org/garylekan

ON OUR WEBSITE: SUMMER



Summer is here, which means the kids are home from school and the weather is heating up. Is your home ready? Visit our website for helpful tips and articles, and find top rated professionals near you. diamondcertified.org/Guide/Summer



Walee Gon
President, Faxon Garage

Maintaining Your Shocks

Many people think shocks are primarily there to make driving more comfortable, but their role in controlling vehicle body movement also affects safety and stability. Additionally, when a vehicle's shocks are worn out, it can lead to premature wear of other vehicle components and result in hefty repair bills.

Call: (415) 830-8930
Read More: www.dccert.org/waleegon

JUNE 2025



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DIAMOND CERTIFIED EXPERT CONTRIBUTIONS



Dean A.
President, Hightlight Solar

Solar Financing With HELOC

Today, many homeowners are choosing to finance their solar energy systems by taking out a home equity line of credit. It's easy to get a low-rate loan, and the investment return from a solar power system is much higher than any interest rate you're likely to pay, so you're sure to come out in the positive.

Call: (877) 312-4241
Read More: www.dccert.org/deana



Vincent Casale
Estimator, Bayside Mechanical, Inc.

Detecting Ductwork Leaks

If you're experiencing airflow issues with your HVAC system, one possible cause may be leaky ductwork. Inspect your ducts by checking connection points for visible gaps and using your hand to feel for escaping air. If you detect any air leaks, make an appointment to have these resealed as soon as possible.

Call: (650) 395-7915
Read More: www.dccert.org/vincentcasale



Curtis Kapple
Owner, Kapple Drywall

Minimizing Dust With Drywall

Dust is an issue with any drywall project, and while contractors can take steps to contain it, even these measures can't completely control it. One way to prevent undue dust dispersion is to minimize traffic between the work area and the rest of the home, which is a common catalyst for dust to escape containment.

Call: (415) 831-4588
Read More: www.dccert.org/curtiskapple



Mostafa Sowadah
Owner, One Source Plumbing and Rooter, Inc.

Toilet Maintenance Tip

Over time, the jet holes in your toilet bowl can get clogged with sediment, which diminishes the power of your toilet's flush. Fortunately, you can remedy this problem yourself. Every six months, use a safety pin, pencil or similar fine-pointed tool to clean the sediment out of the jet holes.

Call: (415) 340-2353
Read More: www.dccert.org/mostafasowadah



Karissa Gallo
Senior Energy Consultant, SolarUnion

Comparing Solar Inverters

Inverters are a crucial part of any solar energy system, but not all types of inverters provide equal performance. For example, string inverters function like a string of Christmas lights, so if one panel stops producing energy, the rest do as well. In contrast, micro-inverters and power optimizers both circumvent this issue.

Call: (415) 236-2966
Read More: www.dccert.org/karissagallo

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Ron Frediani
President, AWC

Dryer Vent Inspection

To test for proper dryer vent airflow, go outside while the dryer is running and feel the air coming out of the exterior vent. It should feel comparable to a blow dryer. If air flow seems weak, you may have a clog in your dryer vent. Since this poses a fire hazard, don't delay in clearing the obstruction.

Call: (650) 273-5410
Read More: www.dccert.org/ronfrediani

JULY 2025



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DIAMOND CERTIFIED EXPERT CONTRIBUTIONS



Jonatan Bautista

Owner, Oro Pro Plumbing, Inc.

Better Source for Plumbing Fixtures

When replacing a faucet or other plumbing fixture, ask your plumber to purchase it for you from a plumbing distributor. Whereas some home supply stores change out fixtures' heavy duty brass inner parts for plastic ones, a plumbing distributor's products come as they were designed, with high-quality materials inside and out.

Call: (650) 549-5950

Read More: www.dccert.org/jonatanbautista



Michael Kenny

President, Michael Kenny - Kenny Realty, Inc.

Renting an Inherited Property

If you're thinking about renting a property you've inherited jointly with a sibling or other family member, make sure the two (or more) of you have a healthy relationship. Jointly managing a rental property with someone you don't get along with can be very frustrating, so it may be a better choice to sell.

Call: (650) 276-4436

Read More: www.dccert.org/michaelkenny



Jim Adkins

President, Springs Construction

Key Players in Construction

When planning for a building or remodeling project, keep in mind that any successful project requires the participation of two key players: a professional designer and a general contractor. Sometimes the same person will fulfill both roles, but either way, it's important to address both aspects from the start.

Call: (650) 720-5949

Read More: www.dccert.org/jimadkins



Uri Rosenberg

Owner, Closet Factory

The Benefits of a Mudroom

A mudroom serves as a convenient transitional space between the outside and the inside of your home. Whether as a checkpoint for shoes and backpacks or simply as a room that provides additional storage, a well-designed mudroom can play an important role in keeping your home more clean and organized.

Call: (650) 212-5664

Read More: www.dccert.org/urirosenberg



Rick Lazzarini

Owner, Degree HVAC, Inc.

Fresh Indoor Air Tip

Besides heating and cooling your home, your HVAC system also circulates the air, which is why your home can get stuffy when it isn't running. To ensure proper air circulation during these times, run your system on the "fan only" setting at regular intervals—ideally 10 to 15 minutes every hour.

Call: (650) 530-0989

Read More: www.dccert.org/ricklazzarini

ON OUR WEBSITE: CAR REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE



Do you know how to make sure your vehicle is running at its peak performance? Visit our website for helpful tips and articles, and find top rated professionals near you.

diamondcertified.org/Guide/Car-Repairs-Maintenance



Greg Danz

Owner, G. D. Enterprise

Upgrading Electrical Wiring

If your home was built prior to the 1960s, it may still have its original knob-and-tube electrical wiring. To increase performance and safety, consider upgrading to modern Romex wiring, which offers better protection against overheating—plus, unlike knob-and-tube wiring, it's grounded.

Call: (650) 409-1232

Read More: www.dccert.org/gregdanz

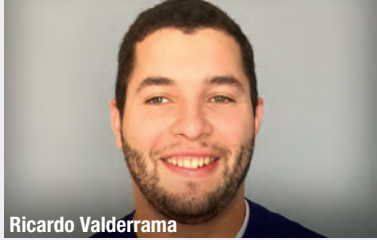
AUGUST 2025



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>July 2025</p> <p>S M T W T F S</p> <p>1 2 3 4 5</p> <p>6 7 8 9 10 11 12</p> <p>13 14 15 16 17 18 19</p> <p>20 21 22 23 24 25 26</p> <p>27 28 29 30 31</p>	<p>September 2025</p> <p>S M T W T F S</p> <p>1 2 3 4 5 6</p> <p>7 8 9 10 11 12 13</p> <p>14 15 16 17 18 19 20</p> <p>21 22 23 24 25 26 27</p> <p>28 29 30</p>				1	2
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DIAMOND CERTIFIED EXPERT CONTRIBUTIONS



Ricardo Valderrama

Owner, Bayhill Heat & Air, Inc.

Air Conditioner Maintenance Tip

When getting your air conditioning system ready for summer, don't forget to inspect the blower motor. If the blower motor isn't operating at full speed, it can inhibit system performance, which can cost you more money to run it. Check the electrical current to make sure your system is optimized for maximum efficiency.

Call: (650) 469-3972

Read More: www.dccert.org/ricardovalderrama



Jin Lee

Owner, Smart Plumbers, Inc.

Locating Your Water Shut-Off Valve

In most cases, your water shut-off valve will be located just outside your home and operated either by a lever or a round handle. Typically, the valve will be located in a straight line from the water meter at the sidewalk. If necessary, you can also shut off your home's water at the meter.

Call: (650) 933-4870

Read More: www.dccert.org/jinlee



Jeff Alexander

Owner, Alexander Company

Improving Window Performance

Since windows are an important part of home energy efficiency, it's worth considering upgrades to improve their performance. For example, since aluminum window frames readily conduct heat and cold, replacing these with vinyl or wood frames will greatly improve window performance.

Call: (650) 525-4171

Read More: www.dccert.org/jeffalexander



Nick Proaño

Pre-Planning Department Manager, Duggan's Serra Mortuary

Funeral Pre-Planning

By ensuring all pertinent details are in order, funeral pre-planning is a helpful measure for minimizing the burden on your loved ones after your passing. Typically, pre-planning consists of gathering information like vital statistics and contact info, as well as determining your preferred service style and mode of disposition.

Call: (650) 530-0944

Read More: www.dccert.org/nickproano



Tom Nolan

CEO/President, California Shower Door Corporation

Shower Door Cleaning Tip

To prevent soap scum, mold and water stains, be proactive about cleaning your shower door. After every shower, use a squeegee or microfiber cloth to wipe latent moisture off the glass. To make this measure more effective, use a product like Hi-Sheen® glass cleaner, which can be applied with a microfiber cloth.

Call: (650) 530-0919

Read More: www.dccert.org/tomnolan

ON OUR WEBSITE: FALL



It's cooling down, which means it's time to finish up those outdoor projects and prepare your home for wet weather. Visit our website for helpful tips and articles, and find top rated professionals near you. diamondcertified.org/Guide/Fall



Stan Jonah

Sales Manager, The Legacy Paver Group

Eco-Friendly Pavers

If you're concerned about the environmental impact of your paver installation, choose permeable pavers, which allow water to permeate into the ground rather than run off into nearby reservoirs. In some cases, permeable paver installations qualify for special financing, as they're considered a Green home upgrade.

Call: (415) 886-2903

Read More: www.dccert.org/stanjonah



DIAMOND CERTIFIED EXPERT CONTRIBUTIONS



Sergey Ivanov
Owner, Bit Electrical Inc.

Adding Electrical Outlets

If you use a lot of power strips and extension cords in your home, it might be time for an electrical upgrade. Besides the risk of overloading your circuits, it's unsafe to have a lot of extension cords running through your home, so consider having some additional outlets installed—an affordable measure as far as upgrades go.

Call: (650) 530-0979
Read More: www.dccert.org/sergeyivanov



Rodney Fite
President, REFCorp

Upgrading Your Wiring

If you live in an older home with two-pronged electrical outlets, you should consider upgrading your wiring, as it likely isn't grounded. If you can't afford to rewire your entire home, a cheaper option is to install ground fault interrupters (GFIs) on all your outlets, which will provide artificial ground fault protection.

Call: (415) 735-0935
Read More: www.dccert.org/rodneyfite



Dean Knecht
Owner, Dean Knecht Painting, Inc.

Tip for Painting Your Front Door

When painting your front door, the paint can take a long time to fully dry, which can be a problem if you need to leave your house. Here's an easy solution: Rub Vaseline® along the edges of the weather stripping that come into contact with the door. When you close the door, this will keep the paint from sticking to these areas.

Call: (650) 648-3925
Read More: www.dccert.org/deanknecht



Nick Granato
Owner, PremierGarage

Installing Storage Cabinets in a Garage

Since it's common to store heavy items in the garage, consider opting for sturdy, 1-inch thick shelving in your storage cabinets to ensure adequate support. Also, consider investing in performance-enhancing features like soft-close hinges, which prevent cabinet doors from being slammed shut.

Call: (650) 720-5913
Read More: www.dccert.org/nickgranato



Paloma Martinez
Vice President, Capstone, Inc.

Commercial Kitchen Maintenance

Regular maintenance of commercial kitchen hoods and filter systems isn't just about keeping the kitchen looking good; it's also about safety, efficiency and food quality. Maintenance frequency should be based on kitchen usage, but don't forget that the entire flue system should be professionally serviced every three to six months.

Call: (415) 484-5907
Read More: www.dccert.org/palomamartinez

ON OUR WEBSITE: ROOFING & GUTTERS



Your roof plays a vital role in protecting your home, so it's important to check on its health and performance. Visit our website for helpful tips and articles, and find top rated professionals near you. diamondcertified.org/Guide/Roofing-Gutters



James Hislop
Owner, Wesco Screen Company Inc.

Window Screen Options

Today, there are many window screen options to meet a variety of needs. For example, pet screens are coated with PVC to protect them from damage caused by dogs and cats. For those who want unobstructed views out their windows or doors, invisible screens offer greater transparency than conventional screen material.

Call: (415) 854-4985
Read More: www.dccert.org/jameshislop

OCTOBER 2025



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
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DIAMOND CERTIFIED EXPERT CONTRIBUTIONS



Stanley Costa

Owner, SonoMarin Cleaning Services, Inc.

Steam Cleaning Your Refrigerator

If you want a cleaner refrigerator, consider purchasing a steam cleaner. This tool allows you to clean and sanitize the inside of your refrigerator without the need for chemical cleaners that can contaminate your food. You can also use a steam cleaner for other purposes, like cleaning your garbage disposal to eliminate odors.

Call: (415) 332-9343

Read More: www.dccert.org/stanleycosta



Chris Testa

Sales Manager, Sure Roofing & Waterproofing

The Importance of Roof Flashing

Flashing may not seem as important as shingles, but it plays a critical role in your roof as a whole. Furthermore, flashing is often the first victim of roof degradation, and when it fails, it can cause the rest of the roof to fail in turn. Have your roofer apply double protection to high-risk areas to ensure long-term performance.

Call: (415) 493-8959

Read More: www.dccert.org/christesta



John Gorman

Owner, Save Energy Company

Wood Window Frames

Wood window frames are popular with homeowners who prefer the traditional look and feel they provide. However, it's important to know that, unlike vinyl frames, wood frames require ongoing maintenance. Likewise, they don't come with a lifetime guarantee—instead, it's usually 10 years for the wood and 20 years for the glass.

Call: (415) 367-3149

Read More: www.dccert.org/johngorman



Bob Vinal

Owner, Bay Area Health Insurance Marketing, Inc.

Section 125 Premium Only Plan Benefit

A Section 125 Premium Only Plan (POP) takes advantage of Section 125 of the Internal Revenue Code, which allows employees to make their benefit contributions with pre-tax dollars. Because of this, employees can avoid paying any income tax on premiums they pay through the plan.

Call: (650) 273-0330

Read More: www.dccert.org/bobvinal



Roger Van Alst

President & Business Development Director, Black Diamond Paver Stones & Landscape, Inc.

Driveway Material Choices

When installing a new driveway, you have three basic choices: asphalt, concrete or paving stones. Whereas both asphalt and concrete are prone to cracking and provide limited design options, a paving stone driveway is able to withstand soil movement without cracking and offers virtually unlimited design possibilities.

Call: (877) 312-4128

Read More: www.dccert.org/rogervanalst

ON OUR WEBSITE: REAL ESTATE



Are you planning to buy or sell a house next year? Visit our website for helpful tips and articles, and find top rated professionals near you. diamondcertified.org/Guide/Real-Estate



Mitch Alves

Owner, MCA Remodeling Inc.

Granite vs. Quartz Countertops

One of the main differences between granite and quartz countertops is their price range. The price of a granite stone slab can vary from as little as \$8 per square foot to as high as \$150 per square foot. In contrast, quartz has a much narrower price range: \$30 to \$60 per square foot.

Call: (650) 273-5399

Read More: www.dccert.org/mitchalves

NOVEMBER 2025



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>October 2025</p> <p>S M T W T F S</p> <p>1 2 3 4</p> <p>5 6 7 8 9 10 11</p> <p>12 13 14 15 16 17 18</p> <p>19 20 21 22 23 24 25</p> <p>26 27 28 29 30 31</p>	<p>December 2025</p> <p>S M T W T F S</p> <p>1 2 3 4 5 6</p> <p>7 8 9 10 11 12 13</p> <p>14 15 16 17 18 19 20</p> <p>21 22 23 24 25 26 27</p> <p>28 29 30 31</p>					1
<p>2</p>  <p>Daylight Saving Time Ends</p>	3	<p>4</p>  <p>Election Day</p>	5	6	7	8
9	10	<p>11</p>  <p>Veterans Day</p>	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
<p>23</p> <p>30</p>	24	25	26	<p>27</p>  <p>Thanksgiving</p>	28	29



DIAMOND CERTIFIED EXPERT CONTRIBUTIONS



Julian Meza
Estimator, Meza's Fence

Fence Construction Tip

When building a fence, some contractors use nails while others use staples. However, since staples are smooth and thin, they're more likely to come loose—especially as the wood contracts and expands with the seasons. In contrast, galvanized nails' superior grip helps maintain a strong bond with the wood.

Call: (408) 692-5976
Read More: www.dccert.org/julianmeza

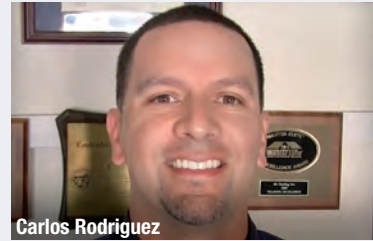


Miro Bokaric
Owner, BV Electric Inc.

Subpanel Installation

Some kitchen remodeling projects may involve the installation of a subpanel—a smaller service panel that functions as an offshoot of the main panel. Subpanels are often used to provide more convenient access to breakers or in cases where the main panel doesn't have room to install additional breakers.

Call: (415) 868-4970
Read More: www.dccert.org/mirobokaric



Carlos Rodriguez
President, Mr. Roofing, Inc.

Rooftop Solar Tip

Before installing rooftop solar panels, consider your roof's age. Since roofing materials and solar panels have a similar life expectancy, it's ideal to install solar around the same time that you replace your roof. If you install a solar system on an older roof, it's only going to increase the cost of roof replacement later.

Call: (650) 605-3927
Read More: www.dccert.org/carlosrodriguez



Dimitar Georgiev
Owner, Abstract Windows

Window Energy Efficiency

If you're in the market for new windows, prioritize products that meet both federal and state energy efficiency standards. Look for the Energy Star certification at the federal level and adhere to California-specific guidelines like Title 24. When it comes to frames, go with materials like fiberglass, vinyl or wood.

Call: (650) 924-2918
Read More: www.dccert.org/dimitargeorgiev



Jonathan Millington
CEO, Ace Plumbing and Rooter

Reducing Home Water Pressure

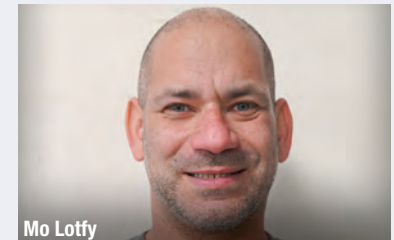
Water pressure that's too high can stress your water heater and plumbing fixtures, leading to potential damage and shorter life spans. Ideally, you should keep your water pressure below 80 psi. This can often be achieved by installing a pressure reducing valve at the point where your water service enters your home.

Call: (415) 367-3154
Read More: www.dccert.org/jonathanmillington

ON OUR WEBSITE: HEATING, COOLING & AIR QUALITY



One of the best ways to prepare for changing weather is to make sure your HVAC system is in good working condition. Visit our website for helpful tips and articles, and find top rated professionals near you. diamondcertified.org/Guide/Heating-and-Cooling-Your-Home



Mo Lotfy
Owner, Auto Europa Auto Body and Painting

Preventing Auto Rust

If you notice bubbling or paint damage around a repaired window on your car, bring it to an auto repair shop as soon as possible. These are both signs of trapped water, which can lead to rust formation over time. A professional will treat the affected area, repaint it and make sure no further damage occurs.

Call: (650) 648-3938
Read More: www.dccert.org/molotfy



DIAMOND CERTIFIED RATING PROCESS



American Ratings Corporation conducts accurate customer satisfaction research.



Rigorous standards are enforced. Only the highest rated pass.



We require ongoing customer satisfaction and performance.



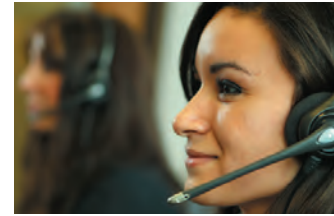
1. APPLY

The company must apply to begin the rating process.



2. SAMPLE

A random sample of typically 400 past customers is collected from all customer files of the applicant company.



3. SURVEY

Only real customers are surveyed in confidential telephone research to determine the company's customer satisfaction score based on quality.



4. SCORE

To qualify, the company must score Highest in Quality and Helpful Expertise®, with a score of 90 or above on a 100 scale.



5. CREDENTIALS

We confirm that the company has required insurances and valid state-mandated credentials.



6. PRACTICES

The company must perform to contract, have customer-friendly business practices and stand behind its work.



7. COMMITMENT

The company agrees to adhere to the Diamond Certified® Customer Satisfaction Principles.



8. AWARD

If the company's quality rating, business practices and credentials meet our high standards, it is awarded Diamond Certified.



9. MONITOR

We conduct ongoing surveys to ensure the company is maintaining high customer satisfaction and loyalty.



10. MEDIATE

The company agrees to participate in Diamond Certified mediation if necessary.



11. GUARANTEE

The Diamond Certified Performance Guarantee provides added assurance of the company's commitment to customer satisfaction.



12. QUALITY

Companies that are able to qualify for and maintain their Diamond Certified awards are much more likely to deliver quality to their customers.

THE DIAMOND CERTIFIED DIFFERENCE



We know review websites can be helpful, but you have to be careful when using them. It's important to understand the key differences between how we conduct research and how review sites collect reviews.

While we exclusively conduct telephone surveys from an entire customer base of each rated company, review sites post reviews from any person who chooses to post, which means legitimate, spontaneous reviews are

mixed with fake and cherry-picked reviews that come from a company's best customers, family and friends. Due to the accuracy of our ratings, we're able to back your purchases from top rated companies with the Diamond Certified Performance Guarantee, while review sites do not.

For these reasons, we naturally encourage consumers to first look to top rated Diamond Certified companies whenever possible.

DIAMOND CERTIFIED RESOURCE (DCR)

REAL CUSTOMERS



To start each rating, DCR uses a company's actual customer list. Then DCR only performs its surveys by telephone, which allows it to verify that each customer has actually purchased from the company being rated.

RANDOM SAMPLE / ALL CUSTOMERS



DCR receives all customer names and phone numbers or a large, random sample of customers (400) from each rated company. Company owners can't cherry-pick because of such a large base. Thus, dissatisfied and satisfied customers are surveyed in true proportion to their occurrence.

STATISTICALLY RELIABLE / RIGOROUS



DCR research is statistically reliable because a large, random sample of customers is pulled from each company's customer base. Customers are "interrupted" by phone interviews at home, so there's not a self-selection bias. Ongoing research, complaint and credentials ratings ensure Diamond Certified companies continue to perform well.

PERFORMANCE GUARANTEE



Should a dispute arise about performance on contract, DCR provides mediation and a money-back guarantee per the terms of the Diamond Certified Performance Guarantee.

MOST REVIEW SITES

FAKE REVIEWS / MULTIPLE IDENTITIES



Anyone can post an anonymous review, whether they were a customer or not. Roughly 30% of posted reviews are fake. Anyone can game the system by creating multiple identities and posting fake reviews to bolster bad companies, or sabotage good ones.

CHERRY-PICKING



Review sites encourage companies to ask people to write reviews. Many times, owners and employees solicit their families, friends and best customers to post 5-star reviews. This cherry-picking produces misleading and biased results.

INACCURATE STAR SCORES



Each company's "star score" (calculated by averaging scored reviews) isn't an accurate score for customer satisfaction because reviewers aren't derived from a random sample that represents all customers served. Instead, customers and non-customers are solicited to write reviews. As such, the results of the review scoring are not statistically reliable.

NO GUARANTEES



Most sites don't offer a performance guarantee.

2025

January

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CORPORATION

Please accept this 2025 Diamond Certified Home Service Calendar as our gift to you. Each month features helpful tips from Diamond Certified Experts, highlighted holidays and important events, trending topics from diamondcertified.org, and more.



RESOURCE

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info@diamondcertified.org

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