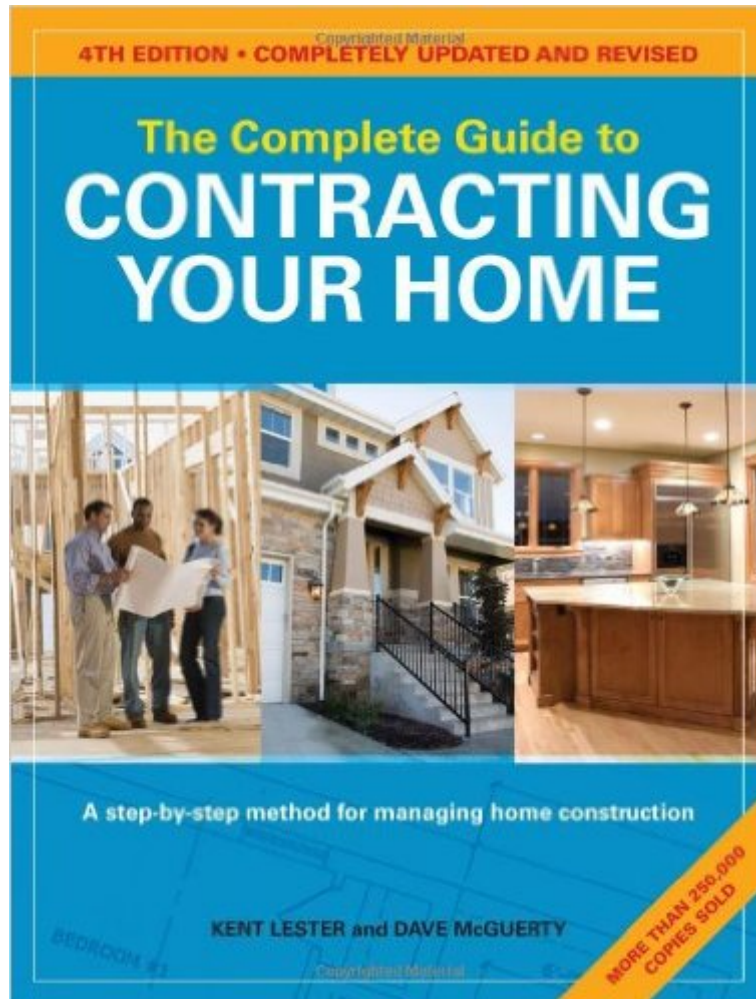


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# The Complete Guide To Contracting Your Home



## Synopsis

Save 30% on Home Construction Whether you want to take on all the responsibility of contracting your home or simply want to intelligently communicate with your homebuilder, *The Complete Guide to Contracting Your Home* can help you save 30% or more on the cost of home construction by teaching you the practical, day-to-day details of managing a construction project. You'll learn the up-front essentials to getting your project off to a solid start. You'll get financial and legal details in language you can understand. Learn the ins and outs of selecting a lot, dealing with suppliers, labor and subcontractors, safety, inspections, and saving money so you can manage with authority, confidence and efficiency. You'll be walked through preconstruction, foundations, framing, roofing, plumbing, electrical, masonry, siding, insulation, drywall, trim, painting, cabinetry, countertops, flooring, tile and landscaping. Also included is the most comprehensive building resources section ever compiled. The appendix includes schedules, checklists, order forms, control logs and contracts you can't be without.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The book is pretty good and I am keeping it for reference but most of the information and forms can be found at [ownerbuilderbook.com](http://ownerbuilderbook.com). also sells his books and it is worth purchasing any of them. But, if you want a simple and fairly detailed overview of what is involved in building a house I would suggest getting any copy of "How to Build a House - Habitat for Humanity". You probably want to spend more money on your house but the book really has lots of suggestions on quality versus

costs. Those guys build all over the world and really know how to explain the basics. It's the little short cuts in a roof, foundation or framing that haunt you down the road. Do not assume a GC or Sub will not cut corners. Buy several books and enjoy the highs and lows of project management.

Although this book has some decent info in it for someone who has never worked construction, the real value is the organization forms in the back of the book. The only problem is, the forms are useless in the kindle version. As a matter of fact, the forms are not even legible in the kindle version. The most disappointing thing is, in the book, it says you can go to the books website, "selfmadehomes.com", and download forms and updated documents. I went to this website and only found more stuff for sale. I even tried to contact the author via the email address listed on the website only to have them return because they no longer existed! Feeling a little ripped off and planning on contacting for a return. (Book review disclaimer: I have a few years experience in construction) As for the content of the book: it is jammed pack full of info. Although you won't use have of the info, it does cover most areas that you will encounter. This is more of a strategy book as opposed to tactics book, meaning it won't teach how to wire a switch but how to deal with the electrician. I would caution the reader that if you do everything the book tells you, you may look like a dork in the eyes of the tradesman. So in closing, this book does have value...but not in the kindle version!

The information in the book is good as are the checklists and other forms. However, I rated as 2 stars for two reasons: (1) Because it indicates that the readers can find, "updates on construction technology, supplemental forms and checklists, and a forum where you can interact with other aspiring self made builders and homeowners" at the [www.selfmadehomes.com](http://www.selfmadehomes.com) website. However, none of that is available on the website, which appears to be an unattended site for selling books, not a tool for builders. (2) When I messaged the author on Facebook to see if it was possible to obtain electronic copies of the forms and checklists I thought were promised to be on the [selfmadehomes.com](http://www.selfmadehomes.com) website, but I received no response. It is disappointing to have such great checklists and forms in the book, but for it to be difficult to use those forms for an actual construction process without manual re-typing them into Word or Excel (it would be necessary to make small modifications to the forms before using them with my subs). For those reasons, I rate this 2 stars. I will update this review if either of the above two items changes.

I was apprehensive to begin contracting my home but this book makes the process easy to

understand and let me know what I'm in for. I now understand that this is a mammoth undertaking of time, organization, and money but it is also easy to understand at a supervisor level. The perspective that the book takes is that you do not need to learn how to do each step in the process; you just need to know the sequence and whether it was done well. The check lists for each step are great. Disclaimer: I have not started my project yet so I can't be sure yet how well this book has prepared me.

Not only is this book thorough, it has the detail you need to get results. The tables help in calculations; the checklists help you keep organized. The author offers alternatives, suggestions, good advice, and tells how to avoid common pitfalls. It is professionally written, easy to follow, and thorough. I wish I had had this book when I started my first major construction project (24 x 50 -3 story with solar heat) in 1979. I now have half a dozen building projects behind me, and am finishing restoring an elegant Queen Anne. I just purchased another 'handyman special' Queen Anne, and am designing my retirement home. By the time I finish those, this book will show a lot of wear!

First of all, all of the reviews that currently appear on this site are for the PREVIOUS edition. I just purchased this 4TH edition WHICH WAS JUST RELEASED LAST MONTH - January 2010. This is an excellent book giving excellent insight to contracting your custom built home.

This book has some good ideas, but reads like a list of things you should "watch out for". In some cases it contradicts itself. The author does not build homes -- he's a computer scientist/software/engineer that has worked and advised builders. The book comes with many lists and examples of what is possible. I don't recall it ever laying out an overall picture of how the entire process should work. It glossed over hiring design professionals to design and engineer your home.

We plan to build a home and this is a good primer for a neophyte, lay person when it comes to home building. It addresses all the early issues and then gets into the construction mechanics. I won't be talked into something expensive or unnecessary with this as a reference. I can also help plan the equipment and style without seeming too ignorant. I had read this from our library and felt it is complete enough to warrant the purchase.

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