



## Use a Professional

Meet a Built Green builder in BC [HERE](#) or Find a R-2000 Builder [HERE](#)

### Why is Education and Certification so Important?

The Canadian Home Builders' Association of BC (CHBA BC) has a specific division for education and training called the [Canadian Home Builders' Institute](#) or CHBI. Included in the suite of 11 courses is the [Built Green Builder Training](#) which focuses on the "House-as-a-system" approach to building.

"The training is relevant to your every day job," said Jonathan Zerkee of [Sonbuilt Homes](#). "It puts you on a different level as the next builder. The training consists of hands-on technical ability, not a bunch of irrelevant classroom stuff and it helps to set the builder on a more professional footing," said Zerkee.

Having held an R-2000 certification for over a decade, Jonathan noted that the training course is a good business decision for new comers to the industry.

"The original training that I took was 12 or 13 years ago and we are constantly training our guys with these methods."

Besides helping builders create a better product, when a home buyer knows their builder is trained they can hopefully avoid some of the horror stories that are out there.

"I just had a conversation yesterday with a homeowner who bought a brand new house last year and is having nothing but problems now," said Vanessa Joehl, director of department G. "From mold issues in the bathroom to grass that refuses to grow in the backyard, the homeowner is trying to find some answers. The builder has come back twice to fix the mold issues to no avail and it turns out the grass was not growing because the backyard was used as a dumping ground for construction debris ranging from drywall, nails, wood and even garbage from onsite lunches, then filled in with dirt and covered with grass sod. Sadly, the conversation I heard was not the first time I've spoken to a homeowner who isn't sure where to turn and they are usually shocked to hear that there currently isn't any education requirement to receive a builder license in British Columbia."

Zerkee has heard similar anecdotes.

"I was at a trade show in Ride Meadows recently and a dozen people came up to me with bad experiences they had with builders and are now nervous about their next purchase," he said.

So, what can other homeowners do to avoid this scenario? Preventative research and the use of a [contract](#) such as the ones offered by CHBA BC.

"A builder who has taken additional training, continues to participate in professional development and who is active in their community or with a building association has built a reputation and respect in the industry," said Joehl. "When you see a Built Green®, R-2000 or a CHBA BC logo, you know that builder is one of the good ones and someone who would never disrespect a construction site by leaving trash behind. That behavior is inexcusable and puts a dark spot on an industry that works diligently to raise the bar."

As much as the onus is on the homebuyer, the industry is working to get the word out as well, since poorly-built homes are bringing down everyone's reputation, even the certified builders.

"The consumer needs to look for credentials in builders but we need to advertise that we have kept up our accreditation and are up to date," said Zerkee, who himself has Built Green® and R-2000 certification.

Buying a home is a huge investment so it is good to know that the homebuilder has put in his time to learn

#### NAVIGATION

[Working Green Main](#)

[Home Certification Benefits](#)

[Certified Energy Advisors](#)

[Use a Professional](#)

[Visit our Industry Partners](#)

#### BUILD GREEN™ MEMBERS

[Member Log In](#)

his trade and adheres to a higher standard.

“If people put as much time and research into their builder as they do for their next car or trip to Mexico we would hear less about the bad guys and more about the good guys,” said Joehl.

## Contact

### department G

Phone: 604.432.7112 Ext 314

Toll Free: 1.800.933.6777

[vanessa@chbabc.org](mailto:vanessa@chbabc.org)

## Location

BCIT Campus, Bldg. NW5

3700 Willingdon Avenue,

Burnaby, BC V5G 3H2

## Follow Us

