

## What is the Building Practitioners Board?

The Building Practitioners Board (BPB) is an independent statutory body established under the *Building Act 1993* that oversees the quality and standard of professional services in the Victorian building industry. In doing so, it administers a registration system and monitors the conduct of registered building practitioners and their ability to practise.

The BPB meets on a monthly basis to make decisions on registrations and other matters relating to the conduct of practitioners. It is comprised of 11 members representing the professional associations of the various categories of building practitioner as well as a legal representative, consumer representative and an independent chairperson.

**The Building Practitioners Board oversees the quality and standard of professional services in the Victorian building industry.**

### Need more information?

More information regarding the BPB can be found in the following brochure:

*What you need to know about the Building Practitioners Board – Inquiries*

Telephone +61 3 9285 6400 1300 360 320

Facsimile +61 3 9285 6490

Level 27, 2 Lonsdale Street, Melbourne, Victoria, 3000

[publicrelations@buildingcommission.com.au](mailto:publicrelations@buildingcommission.com.au)

[www.buildingcommission.com.au](http://www.buildingcommission.com.au)

What you need to know about

## the Building Practitioners Board



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## Registration of Building Practitioners

### Who needs to be registered?

The *Building Act 1993* requires most people who carry out or undertake work in the business of building, to be registered as building practitioners with the BPB. Registered building practitioners are generally required to carry the appropriate insurance to provide consumers with adequate protection. The BPB registers individuals not companies or businesses.

### What are the categories and classes of building practitioners?

The *Building (Interim) Regulations 2005* outline the various categories and classes of building practitioners. Suitability for registration is based upon the nature and extent of qualifications and experience.

The following categories and classes of building practitioners are currently required to be registered with the BPB:

- Building surveyor
- Building inspector (Unlimited/Limited)
- Quantity surveyor
- Engineer (Civil/Mechanical/Electrical/Fire Safety)
- Draftsperson (Building design – architectural, interior, services)
- Builder (Commercial builder – unlimited/limited)
- Builder (Domestic builder – unlimited/limited/manager)
- Builder (Demolisher – low rise buildings/medium rise buildings/unlimited)
- Erector or supervisor (temporary structures – Class 1 and 2).

For more information regarding the registration categories and classes, please contact the Building Practitioners Board on 1300 360 320.

Please note, architects, plumbers and electricians are not registered with the BPB. Architects are separately registered with the Architects Registration Board of Victoria, electricians with the Office of the Chief Electrical Inspector and plumbers with the Plumbing Industry Commission.

### How does a person register with the BPB?

To register as a building practitioner, a person must submit an application available from the BPB or the Building Commission website ([www.buildingcommission.com.au](http://www.buildingcommission.com.au)). Applications can be made in person, by fax or by mail. The application must be accompanied by an application fee and proof of required insurance cover. In most instances, an interview is required.

### What do consumers need to know?

Consumers need to be aware that only registered building practitioners should be engaged to undertake domestic building work with a value greater than \$5,000.

If a consumer uses a builder who is not registered, they potentially accept all the legal risks for the unregistered builder and the sub-contractors. The consumer will have no protection if the builder fails to complete the work, and lose the right to claim against defective or non-complying work.

Consumers should also be aware that anyone who is in the “business of building” must be registered with the BPB.

A list of registered building practitioners is available at [www.buildingcommission.com.au](http://www.buildingcommission.com.au).

## Inquiries into registered building practitioners

### What is a BPB inquiry?

A BPB inquiry is a hearing into a registered building practitioners’ conduct and/or ability to practise. The hearings concern building practitioners who are currently registered, as well as building practitioners who were registered at the time of the alleged offence or misconduct.

### How is an inquiry generated?

The BPB may begin an inquiry into the conduct and/or ability to practice of registered building practitioners in the following ways:

- On its own initiative or on the recommendation of a person appointed by the Board
- By referral from the Commission, insurer or Victorian Civil & Administrative Tribunal or
- At the request of any other person.

On the receipt of a written request for an inquiry, the information is officially recorded and referred to the BPB for consideration. The BPB then decides whether to proceed with an inquiry based on the evidence provided to it.