

The Full Picture

If you think you can “do it yourself” to save money and time – think again.

Can you:

- Get all the necessary building permits?
- Get the home sections (weighing up to 40,000 lbs) to your site?
- Understand the complex engineering documents required for installation?
- Meet all state law and local building codes for the following:
 - Site and utility preparation
 - Load calculations and foundation preparation
 - Carpentry work
 - Roofing
 - Electrical connections
 - Plumbing connections

Do you have the cash to do this work out-of-pocket? *Why?* Because, do-it-yourself work may not fit banks' home or construction loan models.

Installing a
Manufactured Home...
Think you can

do it yourself?

For More Information

To learn more about the perils of out-of-state and internet deals, or to report your experiences, contact:



Northwest Housing Association:
360-357-5650



Department of Labor and Industries:
www.lni.wa.gov



Department of Licensing:
www.dol.wa.gov

**Think
Again!**



An Important Consumer Warning
from the Northwest Housing Association,
the Department of Labor and Industries,
and the Department of Licensing

Looking for any way to advertise lower prices, some unscrupulous home dealers are abandoning their obligation to the consumer and the factory by offering to sell homes on a do-it-yourself basis.

The customer takes on the full responsibility to get the home from the factory (not their local sales center) to their site, and complete the site set-up with no assistance from the dealer or factory.

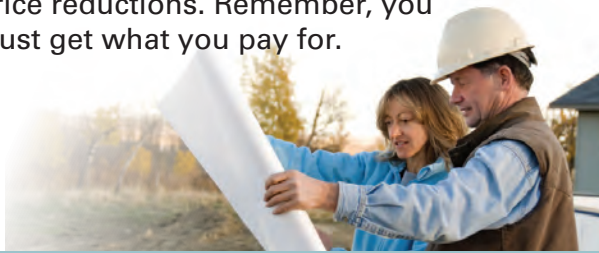
It's not hard to understand how consumers, especially those with a handyman streak to them, can be drawn to the idea of a "do-it yourself installation" manufactured home deal. They see the already built home sections being towed down the freeway on wheels and think, "How hard can it be?"

Sub-standard Independents

OK, so maybe you need to hire out some or all of this work. The "do-it-yourself" home seller may offer a list of independent contractors they say you can hire yourself cheaper, rather than going through the dealer. But if you don't have the expertise to do this work, how can you supervise to make sure it's done right? You may save money up front at the expense of guaranteeing the job is done properly. Saving money up front just to spend it later fixing problems is never a good deal.

Be a Smart Consumer Protect Your Rights

Home retailers are licensed, bonded and required by law to warrant the installation of your home. The best crews with the most experience in the industry work exclusively for retailers. When you buy a home from a reputable dealer that includes transportation and complete set-up, you are assured of quality work by trained, experienced professionals who stand behind their work. Don't be tempted by big price reductions. Remember, you may just get what you pay for.



Putting Your Home at Risk

Hiring an independent crew that you have to supervise can put you at risk. The workmanship may not pass inspection, it can impact the performance of your home and even void the factory's warranty.

Don't Be Dan (TRUE STORY)

Dan believed the dealer's promises that he could set-up his new manufactured home, with a little help from a contractor on the dealer's list. The contractor required \$11,500 cash up front, used his 12- and 15-year-old sons to do the roofing which did not pass inspection, inflicted other damage to the home, and left the job with the home uninhabitable. So far Dan is out of pocket much more than the original \$20,000 he thought he would save, is pursuing legal action, and has lost the use of what was going to be a retirement home for him and his wife. Don't be Dan. Don't be fooled. Don't get left out in the cold.