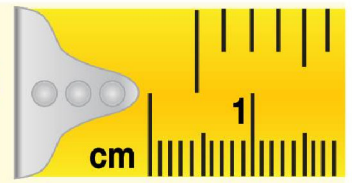




Just Ask Bob

– By Expert Contractor, Bobby Assadourian



To send your 'Just Ask Bob' questions:
 please email to: info@sngpublishing.com
 or mail to: "Just Ask Bob, c/o Silver and Gold"
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Q. "Is my cottage eligible for new windows? (Under the tax rebate program) or is it just for principle residences?"
 – Submitted by Doreen

A. According to the government's website (at www.cra-arc.gc.ca), new windows for your cottage are to be considered an eligible expense. However, just a word to the wise! Before undertaking any expense, it's prudent to take just a moment to telephone the government and directly discuss this with them in greater detail, as even the current information on the government's own website can be debatably considered to be somewhat vague. In your particular case I would specifically ask them if new cottage windows are eligible, considering the home you currently own

or live in, versus how many months you spend each year in at the cottage. Also, don't forget to ask your contractor for references! Don't accept the usual three references, "insist on raising the bar to a higher limit" – even the worst contractors can get the job done right at least "three" times. Insist on at least ten references from your contractor and if he or she cannot supply them, look for someone else with more credibility... and definitely more experience.

Q. "We live in a 45 year old house. The rug in one bedroom needs replacing. Under it is an old hardwood floor. What do you recommend is the best method to refinish the floor to avoid any damage and bring it back to its original shine and smoothness?" – Submitted by V.Knebel.

A. Refinishing old hardwood floors is the 'green' alternative to replacement. The extent of the refinishing will depend on many factors such as, what kind of wood is it, how worn out is the wood itself, are there deep scratches, is there water damage, are any of the boards loose and or weak. But the steps to take to upgrade its lustre may depend on the wood condition. It may be as simple as re-sanding and re-polishing, or it may need complete replacement. My best advice is to find a reputable, knowledgeable contractor who can come in and see the condition of the floor before advising.

Important: Always ask to see your contractor's licence, liability insurance, and very importantly their W.S.I.B (Work Place Safety Insurance Board) certificate – and ask for ten references! If unsure, I would gladly give my opinion if you contact me directly, or send us a photo for us to see and best advise. ■

Bobby Assadourian is a reputable Hamilton-based contractor and owner of Triple R Inc. and may be reached at (289) 649-0196 or by visiting his website: www.triplerinccontracting.ca
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