

InspectToProtect.org Website

featuring the ...



How to Select a Retrofit Contractor:

- Secure estimates from at least two contractors who have completed this retrofit project type before, and ask for customer references. Ask for copies of any pictures of any past projects that are available.
- Secure written proof of active contractor's license, liability insurance, and workers' compensation insurance. Make sure to inspect the documentation for expiration dates and license numbers. Take a picture of the paperwork and contact your local authorities to verify the license name and status.
- Verify who will supervise and/or perform the project tasks. If they plan to subcontract the work, request license and insurance verification for the subcontractors, photograph the documentation, and verify with local authorities.
- Secure a written estimate, budget, and receipts for all materials and supplies. Establish a payment schedule, and never pay for performed work until it is satisfactorily completed and all required code inspections are completed.
- Verify that the necessary building permits are secured. Never agree to "pull" your building permit. Beware of any contractor that suggests you should do so.
- Attend all code inspections throughout the project timeline.
- Secure a minimum one-year written warranty for materials and the performed work.

Structural Resilience Features & Retrofit Options

- **How can I protect my home from earthquakes?**
 - You can make your home stronger in the face of earthquakes by retrofitting, renovating, and making upgrades, including:
 - Brace and strap water heaters
 - Strengthen soft and weak story construction
 - Upgrade foundation connections
 - Upgrade brick masonry chimneys
 - Improve anchorage of masonry fireplace surrounds
 - Reinforce cripple walls
 - Install an automatic gas shutoff valve

- Strengthen unreinforced masonry walls
- Strengthen anchorage to uphill foundation of hillside dwellings
- Reinforce crawl spaces

- **How can I protect my home from floods?**
 - You can make your home stronger in the face of floods by retrofitting, renovating, and making upgrades, including:
 - Anchor fuel tanks
 - Add a sump pump with backup power
 - Elevate the lowest floor
 - Install a backflow valve
 - Install flood vents
 - Improve basement/foundation wall drainage
 - Protect utilities and mechanical equipment by elevating and strapping

- **How can I protect my home from hurricanes?**
 - You can make your home stronger in the face of hurricanes by retrofitting, renovating, and making upgrades, including:
 - Install pressure- and impact-rated garage doors
 - Install impact-rated windows and doors
 - Strengthen roof deck attachments
 - Seal the roof deck
 - Brace soffits
 - Improve the anchorage of attached structures
 - Upgrade to high-wind-rated roof covering
 - Strengthen roof-to-wall connections
 - Strengthen foundation connections
 - Brace gable-end roofs

- **How can I protect my home from tornadoes?**
 - You can make your home stronger in the face of tornadoes by retrofitting, renovating, and making upgrades, including:
 - Install pressure- and impact-rated garage doors
 - Brace gable-end roofs
 - Strengthen roof deck attachment
 - Seal the roof deck
 - Install impact-rated windows and doors
 - Improve the anchorage of attached structures

- Upgrade brick masonry chimneys
 - Strengthen roof-to-wall connections
 - Installing a safe room
 - Brace soffits
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- **How can I protect my home from wildfires?**
 - You can make your home stronger in the face of wildfires by retrofitting, renovating, and making upgrades, including:
 - Replace non-metal vent materials
 - Cover vents with wire mesh
 - Upgrade to noncombustible siding
 - Install a fire-resistant roof cover
 - Upgrade to heat- and flame-resistant windows
 - Install non-combustible (metal) leaf guards over gutters
 - Install residential house sprinklers
 - Protect eaves, overhangs, and soffits
 - Move fuel tanks at least 30 feet away
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- **How can I protect my home from winter storms?**
 - You can make your home stronger in the face of winter freeze and storms by retrofitting, renovating, and making upgrades, including:
 - Upgrade wall insulation
 - Insulate and seal attic openings
 - Install ice barrier on the roof
 - Seal wall openings
 - Install double-pane windows and doors
 - Reinforce roof framing
 - Upgrade attic insulation
 - Insulate pipes
 - Relocate water heater from attic