

incorrectly, can have dangerous results. More than 19,700 people a year are injured by ceiling fans that are improperly mounted or incorrectly sized, according to Electrical Safety Foundation International, an organization that focuses on electrical safety in the home and the workplace.

Some other jobs that involve safety risks:

Extending a gas line. "Do not mess around with gas. ... If you're DIY, you probably don't know how to check for gas leaks," Mr. Knox says. A mistake there could lead to an explosion or carbon-monoxide poisoning.

Projects that involve heights. Carefully assess projects that require you to be high up, whether it's roofing or pruning trees, Ms. Appy says. "Do the cost/benefit analysis upfront and ask yourself, 'How well trained am I to do this, do I have the proper tools, what is my physical well being,'[nbsp]" she says.

Projects that require power tools. Obviously, big power tools, such as a circular saw, can lead to serious injury or even death if used improperly. But don't underestimate jobs that could cause an injury that might not be devastating, but would still slow you down, Ms. Appy says. "The nail gun that injures the hand you write with, it might not be something that seriously injures you," she says. "But it could be something that puts you out of commission for a couple of weeks."

2 When water is involved.

Leaks and water damage can lead to more costly and complicated repairs. If left unfixed, they can lead to mold -- which affects air quality and if found during an inspection can be a deal breaker on a home sale.

Water-related projects don't have to strictly involve your home's pipes. Putting in a skylight might seem like a do-it-yourself job you can handle. Do it incorrectly, however, and you could end up with a leaky roof, water damage and mold.

"If you're lucky and it leaks, you will see the leak," says Mr. Knox. If you're not lucky, leaking can start inside the ceiling and drip behind the walls, causing damage to drywall and wooden beams, he adds.

Mr. Knox says 90% of all construction-defect claims on jobs done by professionals are due to water intrusion, so "it escalates when you go to DIY."

3 If the costs of materials or tools are high.

Sometimes the costs of materials and the expense associated with making a mistake are enough to make hiring an expert a good idea.

"For something like crown molding...you need an expensive tool and the material itself is expensive," Black & Decker's Mr. Murray says.

A kitchen cabinet can cost a couple hundred dollars, and if you order incorrectly, there might be a restocking fee and special orders may be nonreturnable, says Mike Albrecht, division director for Home Depot's installation business. Being off on measurements for granite countertops also can be a costly flub.

4 If the project is too big.

If you're planning on replacing all the windows in your home or remodeling your kitchen, think twice about how much of the project you want to take on yourself, Mr. Albrecht says. Often, you can leave the heavy lifting to the experts, and work on the finishing touches, such as painting and tiling backsplashes, he adds.

In a bathroom, for example, you might be comfortable changing lighting fixtures and medicine cabinets, painting and retiling, Mr. Knox says.

Write to Amy Hoak at amy.hoak@dowjones.com

MORE IN INVESTING *

Sponsored by Constant Contact

Article Tools

120

```
Email Printer Friendly Corder Reprints
```

200K+ Jobs	Online Degrees
Jobs	Keylogger Software
GMAT 101	Rewarding Executive Careers
SmartBrief Job Search	Insurance Leads
Search \$100K+ Jobs Now	Franchise Consultants Needed
Own an Energy Conservation Biz	Finance & Accounting Jobs
Advertise Locally on WSJ.com	Career Counseling

People Who Viewed This Also Viewed...

	On WSJ.com	In My Network		
The Smart Guys Aren't Always Right				
Writing Off Net Capital Losses				
Social Security Payback, Part 2				
Get More Time Off				
The Joys of Traveling Without a Plan				

Video >







The Financial Reform Bill and Investors Trading Strategies: Bullish On Tech

Buffett Gets His Hands Dirty 2:27

More in Investing

Oracle's Tips for Rest of Us

Bond ETF Buyers Must Stay on Guard for Hidden Risks

Gundlach-TCW Spat Heats Up

Investing in the Right Countries

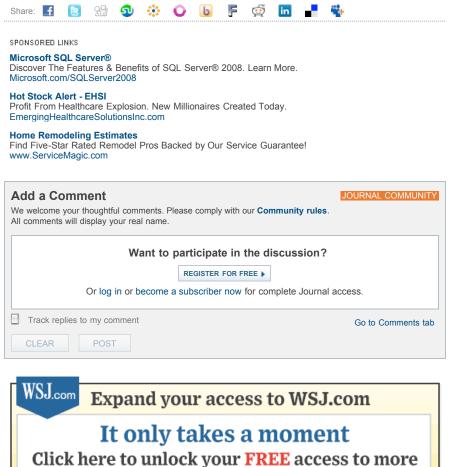
Bright Spots for the Art Market

Most Popular>

Read Emailed Video Commented

- 1. Two Dubai Suspects Traveled to U.S.
- 2. Pelosi Confident on Health Vote
- 3. A Perfectly Framed Assassination
- 4. Propinion: Back to the ObamaCare Future
- 5. Danger of Daily Aspirin

Most Read Articles Feed



newsletters, alerts and key analysis

CLICK HERE

Editors' Picks



Oracle's Tips for Rest of Us



Random House Forms Videogame Team



Magazines Tout 'Power of Print'



Oregonians Protest White Supremacist Compound



NASA Gets Flak on New Course

BACK TO TOP

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

WSJ.com Acco

- My AccountSubscriber Billing Info
- Create an Account: Register for Free
- Subscribe Now

Help & Information Center: Help Customer Service

About:

- News Licensing
- Advertising
- Advertise Locally
- Conferences
- About Dow Jones
- Privacy Policy Updated
 Subscriber Agreement 8
- Subscriber Agreement & Terms of Use - Updated
- Copyright Policy
- Jobs at WSJ.com

- WSJ.com:
- Site Map
- Home
- World
- ∎U.S.
- Business
- Markets
- Market Data
- Tech
- Personal Finance
 Life & Style

Tools & Formats:

- Today's Paper
- Video Center
- Graphics
 Columns
- Columi
- Blogs
- Topics
- Guides
 Alerts

Mobile

Newsletters

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL Digital Network

- -WSJ.com
- Marketwatch.com
- Barrons com
- SmartMoney.com
- AllThingsD.com
- FINS.com
- FiLife.com
- BigCharts.com

WSJ ChineseWSJ JapaneseWSJ Portuguese

WSJ Spanish

Contact Us	Opinion	Podcasts	Virtual Stock Exchange
New on WSJ.com	 Autos 	RSS Feeds	■WSJ U.S. Edition
 Tour the new Journal 	 Careers 	Journal Community	■WSJ Asia Edition
	Real Estate	Isota Strain	
	Small Business	WSJ on Facebook	WSJ Europe Edition
	 Corrections 	■ My Journal	WSJ India Page
			Foreign Language Editions:

ACAP ENABLED

Copyright ©2010 Dow Jones & Company, Inc. All Rights Reserved