

# Tradie quotes alert

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SOME tradespeople are charging up to 10 times more than their counterparts for the same job, a new study shows.

The research found shopping around for trades and services could save consumers thousands of dollars.

Painters' quotes were the most variable, with some charging \$250 an hour and the cheapest \$25 an hour.

The average charge for a painter was \$41 an hour for materials and labour.

Hourly rates of more than \$150 were quoted for some big jobs because up to three painters did the work, the report by website ServiceSeeking.com.au said.

Plumbers also wanted vastly different rates — from \$25 to \$178 an hour, with an average of \$68.

High-end hourly rates often included the labour of a plumber and apprentice, the report found.

Quotes for appliance repairs ranged from \$15 to \$110 an hour.

The hourly rate for home handiwork varied

## TOP TIPS

**GET** at least three quotes

**MAKE** sure quotes include all the work you would like done so there are no arguments later

**ASK** what is not included in the quote

**CHECK** they are licensed, have an ABN and are insured

**DO** research, check the tradesman's reputation online to make sure they are reliable

from \$15 to \$150, with the average quote \$50.

Getting builders in for renovations set homeowners back between \$20 and \$95 an hour for labour, but renovators pay an average of \$51 an hour.

The report used pricing information from more than 26,500 home renovation and repair quotes submitted to the website by consumers from October 2007 to July this year.

Nicole Rich, of Consumer Action Law Centre, said the research showed the importance of shopping around.