

Free building info that's available to all

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Navigating the process of planning, preparing to build, constructing and then the finishing side of things in a building project can get quite confusing. We all start to look around at what's possible, what have others done, and where can we get some good reliable information for my project, ideally that's free!

Researching information through the internet has become the norm and the level of information can range from overwhelming through to minimal. Just 'google' the word 'insulation' and you'll get thousands of pages on the subject. You could spend days ploughing through the different types, installation requirements, efficiency levels and chemical content. It really helps to have some trusted resources at your disposal to help provide useful information that is clear and easy to understand.

So for those of you who missed the seminar session 'Free Resources for Better Building' at the Build & Renovating Expo, this is for you. We have done the research and compiled a list of places to obtain good, trustworthy information for your project regardless of what stage you are at on the building ladder.

Step by step



Finishing	<u>Landscaping</u>
	<u>Interiors</u>
	<u>Carpentry, Painting, Flooring, storage</u>
Construction	<u>Doors & Windows</u>
	<u>Lighting, Electrical & Plumbing</u>
	<u>Heating and Cooling</u>
	<u>Building structure (Foundation, Framework, Roofing & walls)</u>
Planning & Preparation	<u>Selecting a Builder</u>
	<u>Choosing land, Home Design & Ideas</u>
	<u>Planning, Budgeting & Finance</u>



Each of the stages above have been reviewed and sources of information identified and listed. For each area we have listed where/what the resource is and its website address, a summary of what you will find there and which part of the process it covers. For example under planning and preparation you'll find information from the Victorian Building Authority (VBA), their website link, they have useful information on permits, bushfire information, sample contracts and a range of other relevant subjects, as part of the planning process. An example of the list is below.

Planning and Preparation



Where to go	What you'll find	Planning & Controls	Budgeting	Choosing Land, builder & design
Consumer Affairs Victoria www.consumer.vic.gov.au	Useful checklists under Housing and Accommodation tab, Building & Renovating menu.	✓	✓	
Victorian Building Authority www.vba.vic.gov.au	Useful information on permits, bushfire information, contracts and a range of other subjects.	✓		
Your Local Council website	Information on the local planning permit process, application forms and fees, viewing of planning applications, sustainable design and efficiency	✓		
Australian Building Codes Board (ABCB) www.abcb.gov.au	Useful handbooks including Construction of buildings in flood prone/hazard areas, Using on-site renewables and reclaimed energy sources, Energy efficient provisions for Electricians and Plumbers.	✓		✓
Your Local Library	Copies of the National Construction Code (new version each year), books on home design and sustainable/efficient buildings.	✓		✓
AA Architects www.aaarchitect.com.au	Free PDF downloads on Preparing a building budget, Briefing your architect – find them under the Essential menu		✓	✓
Home Design Directory www.homedesigndirectory.com.au	Have a high level Construction cost calculator available on their home page to help estimate building costs.		✓	
Organised Builders www.organisedbuilders.com.au	Have some free estimation spreadsheet templates, there is one for residential house building.		✓	
Moneysmart www.moneysmart.gov.au	Under their Tools & Resources section are some calculators that can help with general budgeting, borrowing and investing.		✓	
Your Home www.yourhome.gov.au	What to look for in a site, efficient building design, and things to consider before you begin. Online resource, hardcopy book also available.			✓
Livable Housing Guidelines www.livablehousingaustralia.org	Guidelines for building design and fittings to ensure adequate moveability and future modification for restricted mobility of occupants. Free App.			✓
Universal Design www.anuhd.org	Similar to Livable Housing, guidelines to designing a home that enables freedom of movement and access despite age and ability.			✓
Sustainable House Day www.sustainablehouseday.com	Annual open house day where people open their homes for visitors to show and discuss what they have done, how, why and the benefits. Speak			✓

These websites and other resources provide useful information on where to go for what, what to look out for and what to consider during your build project. We are sure you'll find they save you significant amounts of time in finding what you need for your project.

And off course there's the smart phone Apps. There are many apps available now that could be useful as well so we've compiled a list called 'There's an App for that'.

You can [download the resources lists free from the Green Moves website by clicking here.](#)

We hope you find the resource lists useful and would welcome any feedback. Contact us at www.greenmoves.com.au for further information.