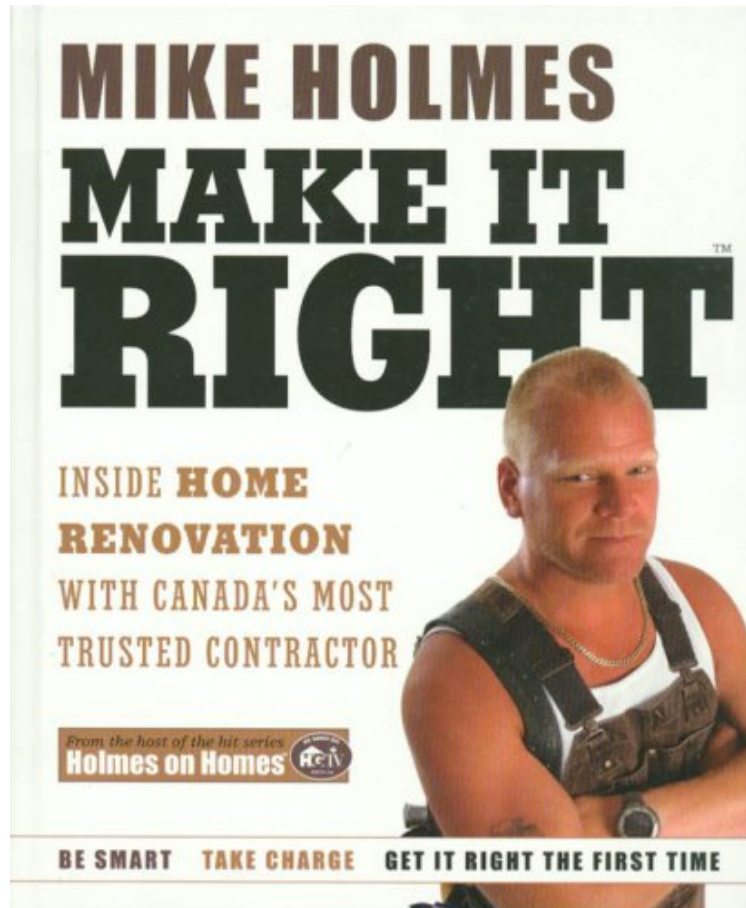


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Make It Right : Inside Home Renovation with Canada's Most Trusted Contractor

Mike Holmes

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Mike Holmes : Make It Right : Inside Home Renovation with Canada's Most Trusted Contractor before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Make It Right : Inside Home Renovation with Canada's Most Trusted Contractor:

46 of 47 people found the following review helpful. He Wrote it Right!By TJ MccarthyIf you're a "Holmes on Homes" fan, then I hardly need tell you to buy this book. Mike distills his common sense, no BS, no cutting corners, approach into a well-organized, well-written book.If you don't know about the show, Holmes is a very special general contractor. He goes into homes where the original contractor bungled the job, ripped off the owner, or both. He digs in, exposing the problems and explaining what the contractor did wrong, or neglected to do. (Occasionally he'll point out things the contractor did right, though at best it's an exercise in damning with faint praise!) He often finds things that the contractors missed because they applied a band-aid rather than exploring to expose the root problem. It's not unusual for him to strip things down to the studs, or tear off a roof, or dig a big hole in the yard, before he can start

putting things back together again. "Close enough" is simply not in his vocabulary. He doesn't gold-plate things, but he won't leave something that will need to be fixed again in a couple of years. Make it Right is the only way he does things. At the end of each show, you have learned a lot about house construction, and the do's and don'ts of hiring contractors. Unfortunately, there's only one Mike, and he works out of Toronto, so you probably can't get him to fix your house. What you can do is buy the book before you start a renovation, find out what you need to properly do your research and preparation, and then start shopping for a contractor with knowledge and confidence. He covers just about every type of renovation you're likely to consider, and provides valuable insights on each. Bottom line: if you're thinking about doing a renovation on your house, big or small, get this book first. Because it costs a whole lot more to fix it afterwards, than to Make it Right in the first place. Now, if only could explain why they don't have this stocked, and you have to go the "See All Buying Options" route to get a copy . . . 5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Excellent Resource By Constantin Mr. Holmes' book is an excellent primer for homeowners who are contemplating buying or renovating a house. He places a lot of emphasis on planning through a renovation, focusing on all aspects of the house, not just the parts that are readily visible. He helps folk with all phases of the process, from selecting the right contractor to construction details like how far a toilet can get installed from the main vent and still flush properly. The mantra of the book and his philosophy is to 'make it right', so that the house will last a long time and make its occupants happy. Having put our house through a 2-year renovation, I really enjoyed how Mr. Holmes takes a holistic view of the house - all aspects of construction are covered, from the foundation footings right up to the rafters in the attic. Mr. Holmes has an amazing set of hands-on knowledge that he distills into a short checklist at the beginning of every chapter, followed by a more detailed (and well-documented) description in the following pages. Time and time again, I found myself nodding in admiration as Mr. Holmes nailed the many issues I have seen over the years looking at building, fixing problems, etc. You can tell how passionate he feels about his customers, all whom I bet are grateful for his services. Additionally, the many little details of this book are a wonderful collection of knowledge that otherwise require the reader to work through a shelf of Taunton "By pros, For pros"-series books (I have... but I can't help it, I love those kinds of books). There are only a two issues I have with this book. Mr. Holmes espouses the use of cold-roofs instead of making the attic part of the conditioned space (i.e. hot roofing). There are a myriad of reasons to avoid going with a cold roof system these days, see buildingscience.com for a long list and exhaustive testing showing that cold roof technology is obsolete. But I suppose that Mr. Holmes is most familiar with cold roof systems because that's what codes required for the last 50 years. Another very small criticism is that the book is written using a lot of Canadian name brands. Well, that's great if you live in Canada, but the brands may be sold under different names in the US market or abroad. A better approach would have been to drop name brands and focus on the underlying technology (i.e. closed cell-polyurethane foam instead of BASF Airtite, etc.). But these two issues aside, the book is an excellent primer for those who want to have their home last a long time with a minimum of issues. Getting the infrastructure right may not be as sexy as a granite countertop, Wolf stove, etc. but having the home heat and cool properly, not burst into flames, etc. is pretty nifty as well. His focus on the things that make a house work is a welcome perspective when most shows and books only focus on the bling factor. 8 of 8 people found the following review helpful. A go-to book--plus hubbie has a man crush on the guy. By Cat F. I'm surprised by how much of a reference book this has become. So far, we've pulled it out to see what kitchen cabinets to look at, used the great chart for green and cost-effective kitchen counters, how many amps to upgrade the electric box and how to choose a gas furnace. And, we've just had the book for about a month. The Make It Right philosophy has permeated our life and we've felt far more confident in plain old rejecting contractors and craftspersons because of Holmes' program and this book. We've saved hours of precious time and worry following the guidelines. Because we're in the U.S., we had to import the book. The seller had the book to us far faster than indicated. Very pleased. The book is easy and fun reading. Caught hubs in the tub studying the thing . . .

'... packed with informative sidebars, checklists, diagrams, and photographs. With Mike by your side, you'll know what to expect from your contractor, what to look for in workmanship, and how to keep your renovation running on time and on budget.'