



# Newsweek

## The Tip Sheet

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### Computing: Try This At Home

**Tracking down trained, trustworthy home-service providers**

Know any good chimney sweeps? (Characters from 'Mary Poppins' do not count.) For the majority of us, tracking down trained, trustworthy home-service providers can be a real chore. So we found a few free Web sites that make it easier.

IN NEW YORK, Chicago and LA, franklinreport.com offers a catalog of professionals, each with a customer rating—and all the businesses come recommended by industry professionals or clients. For national sites, check out servicemagic.com and servicemaster.com. Both offer customer reviews, but you have to fill out a service request to get the info e-mailed to you. And the listings can be slightly less reliable, since businesses pay to be advertisers on the site or pay a commission for bookings.

—Maria Beaudoin