



Ines Hegedus-Garcia
2019 Residential President
MIAMI Association of Realtors

MIAMI Realtors Signs with FIABCI-Europe and FIABCI-Spain Expands Global Partnerships to 207

The MIAMI Association of Realtors (MIAMI) recently signed three international partnerships with FIABCI-Spain, FIABCI-Europe and FIABCI-Miami, expanding its record number of global partners to 207. MIAMI hosted FIABCI-Spain and FIABCI-Europe President Ramon Riera Torroba for an information session on the Spanish and European real estate markets before the signing ceremony at MIAMI HQ.

We are honored to partner with these important chapters of FIABCI, the international real estate federation, for the mutual benefit of our members and markets.

MIAMI also signed with FIABCI-Miami, which presented an event featuring Riera Torroba. FIABCI-MIAMI President Joseph Hawlik and President-Elect Vivian Swietelsky were present for the signing ceremony.

These alliances create business opportunities for MIAMI members, enhance Miami's global position and strengthen the local economy. The bilateral agreements, the most of any U.S. Realtor association, also provide resources, visibility and connections for MIAMI's international partners.

The Power of Global Partners

MIAMI, the largest local Realtor association with 47,000 members, has been signing honorary reciprocal agreements with international real estate associations since 1996. MIAMI has bilateral agreements with real estate associations in more than 50 countries. The organizations are part of MIAMI's International Referral Network, which links South Florida properties with more than 1 million real estate professionals around the world.

MIAMI's International Referral Network provides MIAMI members with a powerful competitive advantage, which benefits buyers, sellers and the communities they serve. Consumers should seek real estate professionals who are members of the MIAMI Association of Realtors because they have international expertise, professional network and marketing resources to better serve them.

For a full list of MIAMI International Partners, visit MiamiRealtors.com/internationalpartners

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DIY

Petite do-it-yourselfers can select small-sized, easy-to-handle tools

BY JAMES DULLEY
Creators Syndicate

Dear James: I want to do some outdoor projects, such as adding a deck, a trellis, etc. Being petite, many tools are difficult to work with. Can I get smaller-size tools, and do you have any tips? — Beth L.

Dear Beth: You should be able to do most of the outdoor projects that a larger person can do, but it may take you longer. That unattractive extra weight around a male contractor's stomach certainly does come in handy when trying to push a shovel into dense clay soil.

Smaller and lighter tools will be much easier for you to work with. For example, a large shovel is not only heavier and awkward for you to handle, but it also takes more force to use. When you attempt to push a shovel into the ground, the amount of force required is a function of how much soil you are moving.

A common flat-blade shovel can have a surface area as large as 80 square inches. Instead of trying to use one of these in hard soil, use a smaller one, such as a border spade. A typical border spade is only 50 square inches and can weigh as much as 20 percent lighter. It will take many more scoops to dig the same size hole, but it will be possible even for a petite

woman.

You can check the weight of various tools when you are visiting your home center or hardware store. You will likely find tools with fiberglass handles are lighter weight than ones with solid wood handles. Fiberglass handles are also much stronger than wood, and they are not harmed by moisture.

To make the projects as simple as possible, always select the proper tools for the specific job. Whenever you start digging a hole or trench in the ground, use a round-point shovel and use it to get to the depth you desire. A flat spade requires much more effort to dig the hole. If you are having trouble controlling a shovel with a long straight handle, use a one with a shorter D handle.

Once the hole is dug to the desired depth, switch to the flat spade to enlarge and shape it. Use it in a peeling motion and remove only thin slices. If you have trouble, sharpen its edge with a fine file. Flare out the hole at the bottom so concrete poured around a post is locked in place.

When digging very small holes, or larger ones in hard soil, use a trenching or duckbill shovel. Gardeners often use these when planting bulbs. The head of the shovel is only about 5 inches wide, so you should be able to push it through almost any type of soil.

Stainless steel tools,

HOMES Do-it-Yourself

Garden Tools

Most garden tools are ergonomically designed for men, and many women find them difficult to use because they are too big. Using tools that don't fit your body can strain your neck, shoulders, back or wrists.



because of their strength, are often made of lighter-gauge metal than plain steel ones, so they are lighter. Stainless steel also will not rust, so the tool surface stays cleaner. For example, the weight of a shovel can be 50 percent higher just from the damp dirt that sticks to it.

A drill is an indispensable tool. Cordless tools

are generally heavier than corded ones, but they are more convenient to use. Higher-voltage ones have more power, but the battery pack is also heavier. Compare various drills and choose one with a lithium ion battery.

Send your questions to *Here's How*, 6906 Roy-algreen Dr., Cincinnati, OH 45244 or visit www.dulley.com.

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HOMES FOR RENT MIAMI-DADE

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COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE

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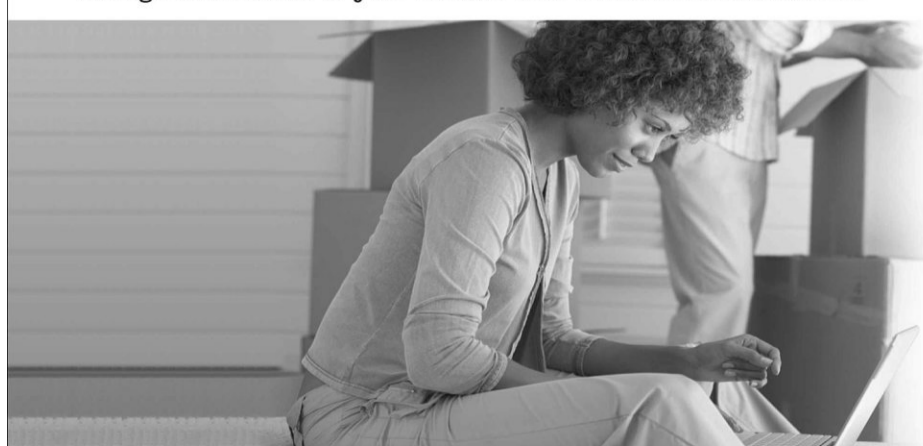
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