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Washington, D.C., Best Contractors

December 27, 2013 by Lisa Renze-Rhodes

123Junk | Chantilly, Va.



Collin Wheeler founded 123Junk as a 23-year-old college graduate in 2008 and he now employs 13 people. (Photo courtesy of Collin Wheeler)









Each day, Collin Wheeler and his 123Junk employees fan out throughout the Washington, D.C., area, helping residents rid their homes of unwanted items. With charity partnerships that span from Habitat for Humanity to the Salvation Army, Wheeler says he works daily to redefine how people dispose of unneeded home goods. "We pride ourselves on being the Cadillac of junk removal, in terms of quality, not in terms of price," Wheeler says.

A formula of donate, recycle and dispose guides the business, for which a license is not needed. His strategy garners high marks from Angie's List members, who awarded him 13 Page of Happiness nominations in the last year. He also received a 2012 nomination from the Dulles Regional Chamber of Commerce for small business of the year.

Ashburn, Va., member Joe Vax describes working with Wheeler as "a breeze." When Vax's load turned out to be bigger than estimated, they made adjustments for price and space on the spot, Vax says. He avoided having to arrange another pickup date, and ultimately, Vax says, that flexibility and quick decision-making saved him money. "I would definitely use their service again," he says.