

# Your Company's Ad Here

## How To Hire The Right Contractor

Before embarking on any remodeling or restoration work, be sure you are hiring the right contractor. Below are some suggestions for making sure there is a good fit between you and your contractor. Hiring the right person or company will help you avoid future problems, misunderstandings, or liabilities you may incur on your project.

1. Look for prompt, courteous contractors who are willing to spend time with you to understand what you want out of your project.
2. Get at least three estimates. Ask for written proposals, proof of proper licensing and proof of insurance (workman's compensation and liability).
3. Ask the contractor for references and ask how much experience the installers have
4. Ask your contractor whether the people it hires are its employees or if they are independent contractors.
5. Check that any subcontractors are licensed, bonded and insured as well.
6. Ask your contractor about its relationships with its vendors and about its payment and credit histories.
7. Find out about the contracts the contractor wants you to sign. Make sure you understand the language and what the terms are.

8. Ask for references, then call those people and ask them about their working relationship with that particular contractor.

9. The length of time the contractor has been in business may be a good indicator of its reputable nature. Look at projects the company has done in the past; are they the types of projects you are contemplating for your own home?

10. Do you mind a contractor who works out of their home, or do you want one with an office and staff that can assist you? Can you reach the person in charge of your job when you need to?

11. Check with the Better Business Bureau in your area regarding any unresolved complaints filed against the contractor.

12. Find out whether the contractor you are thinking of hiring is a member of any professional organizations.

Taking these precautionary steps will save you a lot of time, aggravation and money. They will also ensure that you get your project done the way that you want it.

**The advertiser above sponsored this “*Smart Buyer’s Guide*” for your benefit.**