



We know that looking for the right contractor can be a little stressful. It is very important to find the right contractor to make sure the job is done correctly and to prevent any mishap that might cost you in the future. We have listed a few tips that will guide you in the right direction.

Do Your Research

Check with friends, neighbors, or co-workers who've used a contractor

- *If you can, take a look at the work done and ask about their experience.*

Look at sites you trust that post ratings and reviews

- *Do people seem to have similar experiences, good or bad? You also can check out a contractor's online reputation by searching for the company's name with words like "scam," "rip-off," or "complaint."*

Find out how long they've been in business

- *Look for an established company whose record and reputation you can check out.*
- *Are they experienced with*

Check for qualifications, like licensing

Many states, but not all, require contractors to be licensed. Check with your local building department or consumer protection agency to find out about licensing requirements in your area. Licensing can range from simple registration to a detailed qualification process. If your state or locality has licensing laws, make sure the contractor's license is current.

Ask Questions

Will my project require a permit?

- *Most states and localities require permits for building projects, even for simple jobs like decks. A competent contractor will get all the necessary permits before starting work on*

your project. You may want to choose a contractor familiar with the permitting process in your county, city, or town.

What types of insurance do you carry?

Contractors should have:

- personal liability
- worker's compensation
- property damage coverage

Ask for copies of insurance certificates, and make sure they're current, or you could be held liable for any injuries and damages that occur during the project.

Warranty

If you do encounter an issue after your project is completed, the manufacturer of the product will try and prove that the material was not installed correctly, and the contractor will try to prove that the material was faulty. Luckily there is a process to handle this, but it assumes that certain things are in place, otherwise there is simply no warranty and you will be left with the bill of repairing or replacing.

- *Ask the contractor about his warranty on the work that he will do*
- *Ask if you could get a copy of the warranty to look over for yourself*
- *Make sure what is listed in the warranty covers the scope of the work*

Get A Good Estimate

- *Get at least three bids. As with any project, it's wise to get multiple bids.*
- *When you compare bids, make sure each one includes the same materials and the same tasks, so you're comparing apples and apples.*
- *Make sure all the details of your project are documented on each estimate*
- *Make sure the estimate is within your budget*

Trust Your Gut

Besides these tips, the biggest piece of advice we can give you is to trust your gut. If anything makes you uncomfortable or if you feel that you can't trust a contractor, RUN away as fast as you can. For every good contractor out there, there's at least one bad one who will either do a crappy job or leave you with heartache (and a depleted bank account). Make sure you have every reason to trust your contractor, and you will be able to love the work he creates for you

