

What to look for when hiring a quality contractor?

1. Do they Provide Referrals and Testimonials?

Any reputable home builder or renovator will have a long list of happy clients. Testimonials from these previous clients should be readily available. Upon request, referrals should be given without hesitation.

2. Do they Offer Third-Party Warranty?

A reputable warranty program is a great benefit for homeowners. A third-party warranty protects your investment, regardless of the contractor's situation. Deposit protection is another great benefit to many third-party warranty programs. This option should be a key factor in deciding your contractor.

3. Don't let Price be the deciding factor.

When it comes to your renovation or custom home build, don't let price be your deciding factor. Selecting the lowest estimate may not be the least expensive overall. Ensure your contractor has provided a clear, fully inclusive estimate or you may be comparing apples to oranges.

4. Is their quote clear and comprehensive?

Your quote should be detailed and easy to read. If a contractor has provided an estimate without selections and scope of work, you may be in for surprises. When looking at your quote, make sure the full scope of work and selections are included, if you have not made your selections yet, you should consider doing so, or the estimate should provide price ranges for selections to be made.

5. Are there systems and processes in place to ensure success?

Many builders and renovators have the skills and knowledge to build a great home, but do they have the manpower and organizational skills to execute changes or increased scope of work? Your contractor should have the capacity to efficiently manage your project, as well as track your budget and schedules, while consistently providing updates throughout the course of construction. Make sure your contractor has the administrative support to deliver your home back on time, and on budget.

6. How Transparent are the books?

An honest contractor should have no hesitation in providing full transparency. If your contractor won't show you receipts for product, overhead costs and profits, they are trying to make too much money on your job!

