

## Guide to Choosing a Remodeling Contractor

We are often asked “how do we find the right remodeling contractor?” After many conversations, we found ourselves sharing the same core tips over and over. Please consider this list whenever you are considering a contractor for work on your home, your landscape or even your business. At the end of this guide we have included a checklist to help you evaluate the remodeling contractors you interview.

### Opinion and Inside Prospective:

- A professional remodeling contractor who is well established has no use for paid online Leads. In fact, there are pending class action lawsuits against some of the most popular services that you see on TV.
- A new contractor will be learning the ropes on your dime.
- If you want to have a warranty on your project, hire a contractor who has been in business for more than ten years and has survived at least one downturn in the economy.
- Do not hire a contractor who has had multiple insurance carriers -- he or she is probably not employable.
- Do not hire a contractor without a valid state general contractor's license. Obtaining a license is relatively easy. The most common reasons we've found when a contractor doesn't have a license are a felony conviction, being unable to meet basic financial requirements or illiteracy.
- Out of state telephone numbers and license plates are a big red flag.
- The type and condition of the vehicle that the company representative shows up in will tell you a lot about how they run their business.
- If a remodeling contractor shows up on time for his or her appointment, odds are a lot higher that they complete project on time as well. A good contractor has a sense of time, and respects yours.

- If a contractor shows up to an initial consultation with out a business card or other important paperwork, it's a good indicator that they are disorganized.
- Be leery if a contractor has never personally worked hands-on in the trade in some capacity.
- Low pricing is a reflection of not understanding all that is involved in producing a successful project.
- Design and project planning are critical to the successful outcome of a project and this work has a monetary value.

## Face to Face Meeting

- Most first-time contacts these days are online, but after a few exchanges it's important to meet with the contractor.
- Call your prospective contractor and request an appointment at your home for an initial consultation.
- Ask questions:
  - How often do they do the type of project you are interested in?
  - How many projects do they typically have going on at the same time?
  - How long have they been working with their subcontractors?




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## CONTRACTOR COMPARISON CHECKLIST

THE BASICS	DETAILED INTERIORS			
Well Established, with 20+ Years in Business	✓			
Provides Proof of Insurance	✓			
Liability Insurance is Greater than Your Assets	✓			
Offers CAD Design Services	✓			
Provides Proper State & Local Licenses	✓			
Provides Warranty on Labor/Installation	✓			
Provides References from Accessible and Satisfied Customers	✓			
NC Plates on Vehicles & Local Phone	✓			

THE PRODUCTS & THE PERFORMANCE	DETAILED INTERIORS			
Uses Top Quality Products with Warranty	✓			
Performed Detailed Inspection Before Providing Estimate	✓			
Safety and Dust Control Plans	✓			
Knowledgeable About Products and Appliances	✓			
Identifies and Reviews Problem Areas	✓			



THE PEOPLE	DETAILED INTERIORS			
Professional Designations (NARI, NBA, etc.)	✓			
On-Site Supervisor/Project Manager	✓			
Provides a Detailed Custom Proposal that highlights all Steps of the project	✓			
Provide in-person consultation with detailed explanation of Scope of Services	✓			
Longevity with Sub-Contractors	✓			
Conducts a Pre-Construction Meeting	✓			
Performs a Zero Defects Walk-Through Upon Completion of Project	✓			
Company is One that You Will Enjoy Working With	✓			

THE PRICE	DETAILED INTERIORS			
Provides Clear and Detailed Specifications	✓			
Able to Identify ROI	✓			
Includes Removal of all Debris	✓			
Includes Manufacturers Specified Warranty	✓			
Assures High Quality Products	✓			
Assures High Quality Service	✓			
Includes Design Services	✓			
Clearly Defines Investment Value	✓			

**DETAILED INTERIORS**  
**When Details Matter**  
*We do it right – we do it by the book – or we don't do it at all.*