

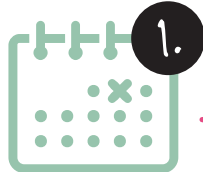


10 questions to ask your contractor

Communication. It's the cornerstone of any good homeowner-contractor relationship.



Put these 10 tasks on the table before signing with a contractor to make sure they measure up.



1. HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN DOING BUSINESS?

Someone who's been plying his trade for years will likely have an established crew of subcontractors and suppliers.



2. DO YOU GUARANTEE YOUR WORK?

A credible contractor should guarantee his work and provide a written warranty agreement.



3. CAN YOU ITEMIZE YOUR BID?

Ask for a cost break down on materials and finishes, as well as each phase of the project (demolition, plumbing, electrical, etc).



4. WHO WILL BE HERE EVERY DAY?

There might be a team of people flowing through your home. Who will be supervising subcontractors? Who will be opening and locking up?



6. ARE YOU LICENSED TO WORK IN MY LOCATION?

If licensing is required in your state, make them prove it with a copy.



5. HOW WILL YOU PROTECT MY PROPERTY?

Will drop cloths and floor covers be used? It's best to discuss before demolition begins.



7. WILL YOU OBTAIN ALL NECESSARY PERMITS?

Some contractors hate to obtain building permits because they add costs to the project and they slow a project down. If one is required, make sure the contractor obtains a permit.

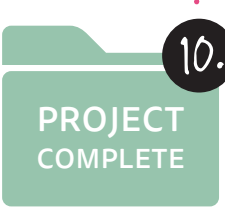


8. HOW WILL YOU COMMUNICATE WITH ME?

Via text? Email? Agree on mutual preferred methods of communication.

9. IS THERE ANYTHING ABOUT MY PROJECT THAT CONCERNS YOU?

If there are any unknowns or uncertainties, it's good to address them upfront.



10. WHAT KIND OF DOCUMENTATION WILL I RECEIVE AFTER COMPLETION?

End-of-project paperwork like lien releases or a list of subcontractors and contact information should be clear.



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