

# 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.



## About ARAG

ARAG® ([www.ARAGlegal.com](http://www.ARAGlegal.com)) is a leader in legal insurance. It provides people with affordable and reliable legal counsel for everyday life matters. The company has an international premium base of more than \$2 billion and protects 15.5 million individuals and their families worldwide.