

12 Tips for Finding a Good Contractor

1. Typically a good referral from friends or family is the best place to start.
2. Call your local BBB or builders association for a list of its members.
3. Solicit two or three bids for the work you need; do not automatically accept the lowest.
4. Beware of an unusually low bid or low advertised prices.
5. Make sure all bids are based on the same set of plans and specifications.
6. Discuss the bids in detail with the contractor to make sure you understand the reasons for any variations in price.
7. Ask if they have general liability and workers' compensation insurance.
8. Make sure they have a permanent business location and make sure you know where it is.
9. Call the BBB to find out how long the company has been in business and whether there are any unresolved complaints against them.
10. Always insist on a written contract, written change orders, and a building permit.
11. Ask if they incorporate any warranties or guarantees into their contracts.
12. Select a contractor you are comfortable with—one who understands your tastes and needs and with whom you can communicate easily.

After you *think* you have found the right contractor, make sure to thoroughly interview them. For helpful interview questions, please refer to our article: “16 Questions to ask a Potential Contractor.”