

16 Questions to ask a Potential Contractor

When making a decision to hire a contractor, it is important to first interview the contractor by asking the following questions:

Experience?

1. How many years of experience do you have?
2. How many and what kind of projects do you do each year?
3. In how many of these have you used the materials I'd like you to use?
4. May I talk to some of your previous customers about the work you did for them?

Quality and Cost?

1. May I see examples of your previous work, either in person or in photographs?
2. May I have a written estimate, and how long is it good for?
3. What sort of payment schedule do you request?
4. What is your policy on refunding a deposit?

Planning and Scheduling?

1. Will there be a preconstruction conference?
2. When do you expect to start work, and how long do you estimate it will take?
3. What hours and days of the week do you work?
4. How do you ensure minimal disruption to the home during the project?

Personnel?

1. How much of the work will be subcontracted?
2. How regularly do these subcontractors work with you?
3. Will you or a foreman be on the job every day?
4. Who will be my contact during the job, and how regularly will I have access to him/her?

By asking these questions, you will gain the information you need to confidently hire your contractor.