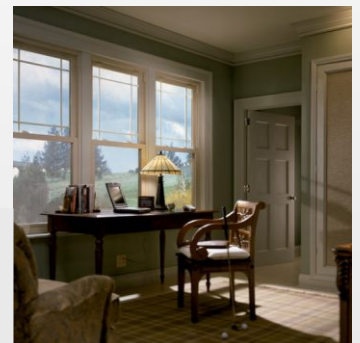




HOW TO **CHOOSE** THE **RIGHT** **CONTRACTOR**

LEARN HOW TO AVOID MISTAKES THAT COULD COST YOU A LOT



Hiring the right contractor for your home can be a challenging and tedious task. There are many questions you should be asking and researching online about it.

A contractor could be in your home and around your family for days, weeks, or even months while changing the way your house looks and functions. So if you don't like a contractor for any reason, don't hire him or her.

Pro Home 1 shares some important tips and suggestions on how to choose the right company and getting the best service and materials for your money.



1. SELECT A LOCAL CONTRACTOR, IDEALLY BY THE RECOMMENDATION

Get recommendations - start with your friends and family. Pick a local company which is known within your community and has an established business and reputation.

Area contractors who have been in business for a long time are usually reliable and safe bets for projects. If they didn't do good work, they wouldn't still be around. Local company is often involved in the community, the workers are almost always local, and if you have a problem later, a local contractor is going to be on top of it.



2. STEER CLEAR OF PREDATORY CONTRACTORS

Avoid contractors that “just canvassing the neighborhood.” They may tell you that you have severe house damage and insist you sign a letter of intent.

Remember: you never have to sign anything. Choose a company from a referral or a sign in your area that has a satisfied client. Interview at least three local contractors – take your time, do your due diligence.



3. PICK A CONTRACTOR WHO SPECIALIZES IN YOUR PROJECT TYPE

It's important to research contractors to know if they have experience in a type of project. Today, so many projects are regulated and code-specific that you want someone who knows the details of what's required.

Professional contractors often take classes and research the kinds of projects they undertake, so they're experts in their fields. This enables them to address potential problems and perform the work correctly. A good remodeler knows how to anticipate the nuances of the work.



4. LICENSE & INSURANCE IS AN OBLIGATION

Having a license and insurance demonstrates a contractor's credibility and knowledge. The license shows that contractor has taken an exam and proved he knows building codes and processes. A license minimizes the risk to homeowners of getting ripped off. To be sure, get the contractor's license number.

Ask about worker's compensation and liability insurance. You want to be sure the cost of the project and the service being provided is protected with the security of coverage. If a contractor doesn't have insurance and a worker gets hurt on your project, you could be liable. The same goes with accidents that damage your next-door neighbor's home. Get proof of insurance.



5. COMMUNICATION IS KEY

Based on the phone interviews, pick three or four contractors to meet for estimates and further discussion. A contractor should be able to answer your questions satisfactorily and in a manner that puts you at ease. **For example, Pro Home 1 as a professional and reputable contractor provides homeowners with straight-talk in-home consultation about their remodeling, roofing and siding needs and options.**

Have your list of questions ready - we are providing a list of questions to ask a contractor further in this guide. Was this company prompt in returning calls? Did they send documentation you requested? Did they follow-up with you?

It's crucial that you communicate well because this person and his team will be in your home for hours at a time. Check in with your state's consumer protection agency and your local Better Business Bureau to make sure contractors don't have a history of disputes with clients or subcontractors. Check online rating services such as Yelp to get other customers' opinions.

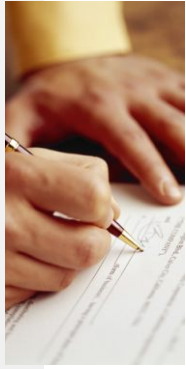
Communication is paramount in every business transaction. If the contractor is not providing you with the information you asked, you have the option of going else where.



6. DON'T LET PRICE BE YOUR GUIDE

Avoid choosing a company solely based on price. Throw out the lowball bid. This contractor is probably cutting corners. In the long run, you get what you pay for. You may ultimately end up spending more money to fix problems, which should have been covered under a workmanship guarantee by a reputable and established contractor.

The single most important factor in choosing a contractor is how well you and he communicate. All things being equal, it's better to spend more and get someone you're comfortable with.



7. TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF WORK: PUT IT IN WRITING

Consider time and money. Discuss terms of payment and duration of work prior to the work starting. You should be satisfied with the completion of the job.

Draw up a contract that details every step of the project: payment schedule; proof of liability insurance and worker's compensation payments; a start date and projected completion date; specific materials and products to be used; and a requirement that the contractor obtain lien releases (which protect you if he doesn't pay his bills) from all subcontractors and suppliers.

Remember: insisting on a clear contract isn't about mistrust. It's about insuring a successful renovation.

A LIST OF QUESTIONS TO ASK A CONTRACTOR YOU ARE THINKING OF HIRING



- Are you licensed, insured and experienced?
- Is there going to be someone on site with whom I can communicate?
- What is your local business phone number and address?
- Do you provide a written estimate?
- Can you provide me with references?
- Are you a member of the Better Business Bureau?
- With what other organizations are you affiliated?
- Do you use your own employees or sub-contractors?
- Are you responsible for getting applicable permits?
- How soon can you start with the job?
- What is the warranty on materials and your work?
- Do you bring a container for refuse material?
- What will you do in the case of inclement weather during the job?
- How will you protect my landscaping/property during this project?
- After the job is done, will you clean up any remaining debris?
- How is payment done?
- Do you offer financing options?

We hope these sample questions will give you an idea of what to ask potential companies.

ProHome1, being an expert contractor for the Chicago area, will gladly provide you with all of these answers and more. Call us and you will see a difference!

We will provide you with an accurate, honest and reasonable evaluation for all jobs, products, materials, price and completion date.



PRO HOME 1

STRAIGHT TALK · HOME PROUD



Pro Home 1 Inc. provides homeowners with straight talk about their remodeling, roofing and siding services and delivers results that increase their pride of home.

As a fully insured and licensed independent contractor with over 40+ years of combined residential and multi-family complex construction experience, we help our customers understand their options so they can make the best-informed decision.

Located in Wood Dale, IL, we have been servicing the Chicagoland area and surrounding suburbs for almost 10 years.



ROOFING



SIDING



WINDOWS



DOORS



MULTIFAMILY



INTERIOR

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