

# TOP 10

## QUESTIONS TO ASK ANY CONTRACTOR BEFORE HIRING

**Know what to ask, so you can hire with confidence.**

### **When Do You Need a Contractor?**

Minor repairs and odd jobs, like assembling furniture or installing blinds, can be done by a competent handyman. If your home improvement project involves more extensive work, like updating wiring, remodeling a bathroom, leveling the floors, or finishing a basement then you'll likely need a licensed contractor. Unlike a handyman, a general contractor coordinates and oversees skilled laborers, secures proper permits, and ensures work meets quality standards.

Hiring the right contractor can save you time, money, stress, and major disappointment. **These 10 questions will help you choose someone trustworthy and qualified.**



## 1. ARE YOU LICENSED, INSURED, AND BONDED?

Make sure they're legally qualified to work in your area and carry both liability and workers' compensation insurance. Ask for proof.

## 2. WHO WILL ACTUALLY BE DOING THE WORK?

Some contractors use their own crew, others subcontract. Know who will be in your home and how they're vetted.

## 3. WHAT'S INCLUDED IN YOUR ESTIMATE?

Ask for a detailed, itemized quote. Review what's provided, what might be extra, and how change orders are handled.

## 4. WILL YOU PULL THE NECESSARY PERMITS?

They should. If they say permits aren't needed, double-check with your local building department.

## 5. WHAT IS THE PROJECTED TIMELINE?

No one can predict everything, but a contractor should provide a clear schedule and communicate changes promptly.

### PRO TIP

#### Trust your gut.

If something feels off during the interview or they avoid answering questions clearly, walk away. The right contractor welcomes transparency.



## 6. WHAT'S THE PAYMENT SCHEDULE?

Expect to pay a deposit but never pay in full upfront. A reputable contractor will break payments into logical stages tied to project milestones or dates.

## 7. HOW DO YOU HANDLE CLEANUP AND PROTECTION OF MY HOME?

Discuss dust control, floor protection, and daily clean-up—especially if you'll be living there during the work.

## 8. WHAT WARRANTIES OR GUARANTEES DO YOU OFFER?

Ask what's covered, how long it lasts, and whether you'll receive written documentation.

## 9. HOW DO YOU COMMUNICATE WITH CLIENTS?

Will updates come via email, text, or weekly meetings? Good communication = fewer surprises.

## 9. CAN YOU SHARE REFERENCES?

Experience matters—how long they've been in business and what their past clients think. Request recent project examples and speak directly to other homeowners they've done similar projects for.



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