

Construction and Contractors

Issue Two: How To Choose a Contractor

1 Referrals

Get referrals from people or organizations you know. Start with people who have had adaptive construction work in their homes. You can also ask people who have recently had general renovations in their homes. Find out what kind of working relationship they had with the contractor. Did the contractor respond to their needs or did they pigeonhole them into a standard solution?

2 Estimates

Get estimates in writing from several contractors. Be suspicious of any contractor who will not respond to this reasonable request.

3 References

Get references from each contractor. Request the names and phone numbers of three of their customers. When you call the references, ask them about the contractor's communication skills, reliability, and efficiency. Ask about the quality of the craftsmanship. Inspect the work yourself if possible.

4 Research

Check online resources to read reviews from their previous clients to get a good scope of how they work. Check with your local Better Business Bureau to see if any complaints have been filed against the contractor.

★ Compare

With your referrals, references estimates, and research in hand you are now reading to compare contractors and choose the professional who is most qualified for your project!



You now have the expertise to confidently choose a contractor. Check out the third and final issue of the *Construction and Contractors* series that details how to ensure you get a reasonable contract.