

FREE REPORT: 8 Tips to Hiring a Roofing Contractor

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Many consumers are unaware of the tremendous problems they can cause themselves if they are not careful when hiring a contractor. A few simple precautions and some good old-fashioned common sense before you sign a contract can save you hassles and dollars later. **HERE ARE A FEW TIPS!!**

1. ASK FOR REFERENCES

The best way to determine the contractor's reputation is from other clients. Get more than one reference

2. ASK TO SEE CERTIFICATES OF INSURANCE FOR GENERAL LIABILITY, WORKER'S COMPENSATION.

This item is crucial! If your contractor causes damage to your property or experiences injuries on the job, YOU could be held liable through your homeowners insurance or personally if the contractor is uninsured.

3. ASK THE CONTRACTOR TO PULL THE BUILDING PERMIT

If the contractor asks you to obtain the permits, something is remiss. Only licensed contractors and homeowners, or building owners can get permits. This request could mean that your contractor is unlicensed, and can, therefore, not get a permit. The permit process is very important in that it ensures that the work performed on your project is inspected by city or county officials for compliance to building codes.

4. COMPARE PRICES APPLES TO APPLES

If you obtain more than one estimate, be sure your prices include the exact same work scope. A price difference could mean additional work, different materials, are not included. (Example: shingles could be 20 year on one estimate and 25, or 30 year on another). Be sure the bottom line was arrived at in an equal manner.

5. ASK FOR WARRANTY DOCUMENTS

Ask to have the original warranty documents given to you for materials, equipment and workmanship. Make sure material and equipment warranties are registered with the manufacturer. Your contractor should perform this service for you or show you how to do it yourself.

6. NEVER PAY FOR UNCOMPLETED WORK

Materials or equipment can be paid for upon delivery, but the workmanship portion should not be paid until the work is completed. This can be done in progress payments if your project is a lengthy one.

7. REPORT ANY PROBLEMS TO YOUR CONTRACTOR

If things don't seem up to par during or upon completion of your project, communicate with your contractor. Problems can be corrected immediately when they occur, if they are made known to the contractor.

8. GET IT IN WRITING!!!

Make sure your estimates include the entire scope of work to be performed, the prices, what warranties are included and any special payment requirements. This may seem simple and obvious, but it is often overlooked. If you should have problems during your project or any time thereafter, it is in your best interest to have EVERYTHING in writing. Unfortunately, it is said to say that the old days of doing business with a handshake alone are long gone!!

Since our home's roof is "over our heads" and is also something that we see on a regular basis, it is easy to miss signs of deterioration. An annual inspection will probably identify most roof problems. To do this, you need to view your roof from several vantage points.