



Checklist for Hiring a Builder or Remodeler

Do your homework before having work done on your home.

Use this checklist to help you select a builder or remodeler to work on or build your home.

- ***Does the builder or remodeler have a permanent business location and a good reputation with local banks and suppliers?***
- ***How long have they been in the building business?***
It usually takes 3 to 5 years to establish a financially sound business.
Will they be around after the construction is complete to service any warranties?
- ***Have you called your local Better Business Bureau?*** They can alert you to any complaints.
- ***Does the builder/remodeler have sufficient workers compensation & general liability insurance?***
If not, you may be liable for any construction-related accidents on your premises.
- ***Will the builder/remodeler provide you with names of previous customers?***
Ask them if they would hire the builder/remodeler again.
- ***Have you seen the builder/remodeler's work, both completed and in progress?***
Check for quality of workmanship and materials.
- ***Are you able to communicate with the builder/remodeler?***
Remember you will be in close contact with them throughout the construction process and afterward as you live in your new home.
- ***Will the builder/remodeler provide you with a complete and clearly written contract?***
The contract will benefit both of you. Review it carefully.
- ***Be cautious of unusually low-priced bids.***
If the builder/remodeler is unable to pay for the materials and labor as the project proceeds, this may indicate a potential problem.

For names of local member builders and remodelers, go to www.tristatehba.com or for a wider area go to www.hbawv.org.

For more information about building and housing topics such as Weatherization, Green Building, Chinese Drywall, Buying A Home, Choosing A Contractor, Building vs. Remodeling, Lead Paint go to www.nahb.org.
For information on tax credits go to www.FederalHousingTaxCredit.com

