



Your source for independent home contractors information

TotalHouseHold.com 10 tips for hiring a contractor

1. Plan your Project

- ✓ Plan out your project carefully – the better you can explain, the fewer changes and misunderstandings later on. Plus, making changes once the project has started can end up being very costly

2. Lookup contractors

- ✓ Get recommendations from friends, neighbors, and of course TotalHouseHold.com.
- ✓ Look up complaints and/or violations on such website as Better Business Bureau

3. Get other estimates

- ✓ Interview several qualified contractors and solicit competing bids.

4. Talk to Previous Clients

- ✓ Don't just ask for references but go see the work in person if possible

5. Be careful of lowball bids

- ✓ Don't let price alone dictate your choice of contractor. Evaluate all aspects of the work including scope of work, references, time frame and price

6. Put it in writing

- ✓ Write out your project in as much details as possible. It will help avoid misunderstandings later and costs overruns and better plan for budget and time



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7. Verify Licenses, Worker's Comp and Insurances

- ✓ Make sure they're licensed and that their insurance is up to date.
- ✓ Contractors using workers on the job-site must have worker's comp that should not be expired

8. Set up a payment schedule

- ✓ For larger project, try evenly spaced 25% payments. This way you have more control throughout the entire project lifespan

9. Try to anticipate problems and inconveniences.

- ✓ Discuss with your contractor consequences of project overruns or cleanup

10. Pay with a credit card

- ✓ Especially the deposit. It will give you peace of mind and more control if anything goes wrong

Once your project has started:

- Make frequent inspections as the project progresses
- Make sure all permits are in place and inspections in order
- Review them on TotalHouseHold.com