## **▼** 10 Smart Questions to Ask Before Hiring a Contractor

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Use this checklist during contractor interviews to protect your time, money, and peace of mind.

1. Are you licensed and insured?
$\square$ Ask to see their license and verify it through <u>myfloridalicense.com</u> $\square$ Confirm they carry both general liability and workers' comp insurance
2. Can I see recent examples of your work?
$\hfill\square$ Request before-and-after photos, jobsite images, or current project walkthroughs $\hfill\square$ Ask if they've done projects similar to yours
3. What's included in the estimate?
□ Clarify what's covered: materials, labor, permits, clean-up, etc. □ Ask about exclusions and how they handle price changes
4. What's your projected timeline?
□ Request a clear start and end date □ Ask for a breakdown of phases (demo, install, inspections, etc.)
5. Who will I communicate with during the project?
☐ Find out if there's a dedicated project manager or point of contact ☐ Ask how updates will be delivered (calls, texts, meetings)
6. What happens if something unexpected comes up?
□ Ask how they handle change orders, surprises, or delays □ Find out how additional costs are communicated and approved
7. Do you use subcontractors or an in-house team?
□ Clarify who will be working in your home □ Ask how long they've worked with their trades and how work is supervised
8. How do you protect my home during the project?
□ Ask about floor protection, dust control, daily clean-up, and pet/kid safety □ Find out how they handle accidental damage (and if it's insured)
9. Do you have references I can speak to?
□ Request at least 2-3 recent client references □ Ask if those projects were similar in size/scope to yours
10. What sets you apart from other contractors?
<ul> <li>□ Look for answers that go beyond "we do great work"</li> <li>□ Do they focus on communication, reliability, transparency, or something else?</li> </ul>



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