

Advice for Finding the Best Contractor for the Job

It might take a bit of effort and some time to find the right Contractor, but here's some advice to help you find the best one in town.

Finding a local, professional Contractor might seem overwhelming to some homeowners, especially to those who are new to an area; young; first-time homeowners; or simply looking to change contractors after a previous job.

- It might take a bit of effort, but finding a good Contractor is worthwhile – because you can't put a price on peace of mind.

Search the Web

The Internet is a great place to start doing research.

- A good rule of thumb when researching just about anything is the bigger the sample size, the more likely you are to find a consensus.
- Use social media to ask your friends about Contractors they've had a good experience with who are suitable for your specific issue.
- Read reviews online and consult different Web sites that collect reviews of contractors. The more you know, the better off you are.

As with any kind of contractor, ask the contractor you want to hire for references, and be sure to verify his or her certification. So what should you look for in a Contractor? Be on the watch for:

- Plenty of experience, reliability, attention to detail, and availability for emergency call-outs.

Know the job

Whatever your need for a Contractor is, it is a good idea to understand as much about the project as possible.

- Do your research at stores and trade shows and try to learn more about what's involved.
- Even if you don't know exactly how to clear out a rough-in, you can have a basic idea of what is involved and what has to be done.

For example

- If you are hiring a contractor to put in a new sink or install a water-saving toilet, know what type of fixture you want, how much you are willing to pay, and the basic types of piping involved.

Ask for quotes

If you've done some research, both on the Web and with real people, and you've narrowed down the list to three or four local Contractors, ask each of them for an estimate and a timeframe for your project.

- Calling various Contractors for quotes is a great way to figure out how much you ought to pay for your project.

Ask about service warranties

- Ask any Contractor you hire if they offer a service warranty. The answer you get will go a long way in helping you figure out if their services are right for you.

Most experienced Contractors offer a service warranty on their work, and the length of the warranty is a good indication of how strongly the Contractor believes in the quality of his or her job. Do your homework and shop around to find the very best Contractor for you and your home.

A great place to start is by contacting the Builder Block at (403) 366-0850 or by visiting our website at www.builderblock.ca.