

# Checklist for Finding and Hiring a Contractor

*Doing your homework will help you have a more successful experience.*

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

- Contact your state agency to make sure the contractor is licensed.  
Maryland MHIC <https://www.dllr.state.md.us/license/mhic/>  
Virginia <http://www.dpor.virginia.gov/LicenseLookup>
- Make sure the contractor has a good reputation. You can check [www.Yelp.com](http://www.Yelp.com) or [www.consumerreviewreports.org](http://www.consumerreviewreports.org)
- Find out how long they have been in business. It usually takes three to five years to establish a financially sound business. You want to make sure they will be around after the project is completed to service any warranties.
- Check out the company's rating and if there have been any complaints filed with your local Better Business Bureau:
- Make sure the builder/remodeler has sufficient workers compensation and general liability insurance. If not, you may be liable for any construction-related accidents on your premises.
- Ask the contractor to provide you with names of previous customers. If they won't, beware. If they do, ask the customers if they would hire the contractor again.
- Ask if you can see contractors work, both completed and in progress. Check for quality of workmanship and materials.
- Make sure the contractor provides you with a complete and clearly written contract. The contract will benefit both of you.
- Be cautious of unusually low-priced bids. Keep in mind that less expensive does not necessarily mean better!

