



Building a Better Community

Brought to you by The Home Builders Association of Greater Columbia

Checklist for finding and hiring a remodeler

Too often, we get calls from homeowners who have had a bad experience with a remodeler or builder. Use this checklist to help select a professional to work on your home. Doing your homework will help you have a more successful experience.

- Visit www.columbiaremodelers.com for the names of member builders and remodelers. You can also ask family, friends or coworkers for recommendations.
- Make sure the builder or home remodeler has a permanent business location and a good reputation with local banks and suppliers.
- Find out how long they have been in the building 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 construction is complete to service any warranties.
- Check out the company's rating and if there have been any complaints filed with your local Better Business Bureau: <http://www.bbb.org/>.
- 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 builder/remodeler to provide you with names of previous customers. If they won't, beware. If they do, ask the customers if they would hire the builder/remodeler again.
- Ask if you can see the builder/remodelers work, both completed and in progress. Check for quality of workmanship and materials.
- Do you feel you can easily 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.
- Make sure the builder/remodeler provides you with a complete and clearly written contract. The contract will benefit both of you. If you are having a new home built, get and review a copy of the home warranty and homeowner manual as well.
- 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. Keep in mind that less expensive does not necessarily mean better!

Visit the Home Builders Association of Greater Columbia
on the World Wide Web: www.ColumbiaBuilders.com
All builders in the section are equal opportunity employers.