

How to hire a Paint/Wallpaper Contractor Checklist

Thanks for downloading this document! We hope this is useful as you decide how to go about hiring a contractor for your next paint, decorating, or wallpaper contractor. As we get feedback from you we will continue to update this document to help you in your future home improvement projects.

Where do you find your contractor?

- Personal network- Ask friends, family, coworkers
- Google- look for websites, social media sites Does the contractor have reviews you can see?
- Paint store? If you go to your neighborhood paint store they know who does good work
- Designer/decorator? These professionals will normally have people they work with so they know their work 1st hand.
- PDCA- find a painter, WIA find an installer

What do you look for when calling and getting an estimate?

- Do they have a website?
- Do they have images or videos of their work you can reference?
- Do they have insurance and workman's comp insurance?
- Are they professional when they answer the phone?
- Clean appearance when coming to your house for an estimate?
- Did they have a clean/professional vehicle? Did the vehicle have their Company logo on it?
- Do they have business cards?
- Did they clearly ask questions about the job you want done?
- Did they give feedback on your scope of work, have suggestions, did they write down what was discussed?
- Who is doing the work? (are they selling this job to someone-using a subcontractor?)
- How much experience do they have with the scope of work you want done?
- Do they look you in the eyes when talking with you?
- Do they feel trustworthy- ask yourself if you are comfortable with this person in your home?
- Are they telling you their process on the phone or while at your home so you know what to expect?
- Do they want reviews- shows confidence of the outcome of their work
- Are they a part of any trade associations? (they get training, certification, education etc)

What you do when you get an estimate?

- Did you get the estimate on a form? (email form, or a carbon copy form) or was it written on a piece of paper
- Did you get other estimates? If so, how do they compare- are they equal? (is the scope of work, prep work, insurance, etc all the same?) Be sure what you are getting done, make sure it is in writing.
- Did they offer copies of their insurance?
- Are payment terms outlined in the estimate?
- Will they provide something in writing before additional work is done, (there are things that happen that are often unseen while doing an estimate) Are they assuming you will just pay for it – or are you being told of any issues before they do the work?
- What is their schedule? If they have nothing scheduled I always have an issue with that as the good contractors are always 1-2 weeks booked (usually 3-4).

Do you know When they are coming to do the work?

How will they have access to your home?

How long will the work take to complete?

Is there any type of warranty?

Do the crews have cell phones to be able to talk with them during the day or as the project progresses? (it can be a pain to have to call an office and relay messages back and forth)

Do you like the contractor, do you trust them, do you feel at ease with them?