



Tips for Choosing the Right Contractor

Congratulations on your decision to build a new home or renovate your existing one! Since this is one of the largest investments – financially and otherwise – you’ll most likely make, we want to equip you with the right tools. After all, thorough preparation will bring you peace of mind during this exciting time.

1. **Is your builder a *current* member of the home builders association?** As a member of HBAGLR, you can rest assured that your contractor is licensed, insured and professional.
2. **Don't start by leafing through the Yellow Pages.** Instead, ask friends and relatives for recommendations and find out if they're satisfied with their homes. Use www.hbaglr.com to search for Registered Builders.
3. **After identifying a few contractors, visit some of the homes they have built/remodeled.** There's no substitute for seeing their finished work.
4. **Ask for references.** Make sure they're current (within the last two years). Call and these customers such things as:
 - a. Did you enjoy working with the contractor?
 - b. Are you satisfied with his/her work?
 - c. What issues, if any, did you encounter? How did he/she address them?
 - d. Would you recommend this contractor?
5. **Check the builder's credentials.** Find out how long the firm has been in business. Are they licensed and insured? Is the company financially stable? Have any liens been filed against their homes in the last two years?
6. **Check with the Better Business Bureau.** If they're registered, have any complaints been filed in the last 5 years. Find out the nature and resolution.
7. **Do they offer a warranty?** Find out the length of the warranty, if it is backed by an insurance company and what procedures will be followed if a problem arises.
8. **Make sure you're comfortable working with them.** Cooperation is essential, especially if you're purchasing a custom-built home or a home that is still under construction.

We hope you enjoy your new or renovated home! For more information on choosing a contractor or building/renovating a home, please contact the Home Builders Association office at the information below.