



Choosing a Contractor

This directory is designed to help you find appropriate trades people for your needs. However, a listing in the directory is not enough to guide your final decision in hiring a professional. Here are some questions to ask to help choose a good match for you and your project.

How long have you been in business? The longer the company has been in business, the more experience they have gained. However, do not rely on this question alone, as there are many highly-skilled start-up organizations.

Is your company a full-service or specialty firm? For a complicated repair, you may need a specialist. For simpler work, general services may be sufficient.

Request a list of three or more references for projects like yours. Ask the references if they were satisfied with the outcome, what they would do differently next time, and would they use the contractor again. Your friends and neighbors are also a good source of recommendations, or may know of projects not on the contractor's reference list.

What is your approach to a project of this scope? This answer should reveal the contractor's preservation philosophy and his or her level of familiarity with projects such as yours.

What is the timetable for this project? Make sure you know when the job will start, how long the job is expected to take as well as what hours the crew will work.

How many people will be working on this project, and how are they employed? Many professionals rely on subcontractors, while others have a variety of laborers under their constant employ. Ask about warranties and guarantees and about who is responsible for the subcontractors.

Ask to see proof of state workman's compensation coverage and liability insurance certificate. Check with your insurance agent about your project.

Will we need a permit for this project? Most cities and towns require permits for building projects. Decide who will secure the appropriate permissions before you begin.

Finally, make sure you are comfortable with the person you plan on hiring. Whether a project is simple or complex, good communication and trust are important ingredients.

Questions? Call us at 603-224-2281. More information at www.nhpreservation.org