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Checklist for Hiring a Builder or Remodeler

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Do your homework before having work done on your home.

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

- Does the builder or remodeler have a permanent business location and a good reputation with local banks and suppliers?
- How long have they been in the building business? It usually takes three to five years to establish a financially sound business. Will they be around after the construction is complete to service any warranties?
- Have you called your local Better Business Bureau? They can alert you to any complaints.
- Does the builder/remodeler have sufficient workers compensation and general liability insurance? If not, you may be liable for any construction-related accidents on your premises.
- Will the builder/remodeler provide you with names of previous customers? Ask them if they would hire the builder/remodeler again.
- Have you seen the builder/remodelers work, both completed and in progress? Check for quality of workmanship and materials.
- Are you able to 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.
- Will the builder/remodeler provide you with a complete and clearly written contract? The contract will benefit both of you. Review it carefully.
- 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.

Call your local home builders' association for the names of member builders and remodelers. Find contact information at www.nahb.org/findanhba.