

Choosing a Contractor

NARROW THE CHOICE TO THREE

- Phone book & newspaper ads– A listing or an ad doesn't make a good contractor, but it does show some stability.
- Website – same as above, but information in greater detail. Usually contains a “Contact Us” through email option. You can make contact without giving your phone number.
- Lumber companies – ask the Contractor Sales Rep for suggestions. They know who is building or remodeling in the area and they are surely NOT going to recommend a contractor who is late paying his materials bill.
- Banks & Realtors – ask if they know a good general contractor or remodeler.
- Word of mouth – ask friends or neighbors. They have nothing to gain from recommending a contractor who's done a good job. So, if a contractor gets a good word from someone, it's because the customer was happy with the work.

SELECT ONE

- Check out each of the 3 with the Better Business Bureau (www.bbb.org) or 206-431-2222.
- Especially helpful is Washington State's Labor and Industries website (www.Contractors.Lni.wa.gov) where you can make sure the contractor is a legal entity with the state and check for any complaints. Ask for the brochure “Hiring a Contractor or Remodeler?”
- Call, email, meet with each on current job sites (if possible.) Ask questions, get copies of blank contracts, change orders and lien wavers. **Check out references.**

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