

How can I be sure I'm choosing a legitimate contractor?

To protect yourself from the un-professional remodeler, watch out for these glaring red flags.



Doesn't have license and insurance. All professional remodelers should be insured and able to show their certificate proving such insurance. Although all states do not require licensing, remodelers in states requiring licenses should have it and be able to provide a copy.



Doesn't write contracts. Professional remodelers have clear contracts that outline the job, process, the cost, and helps clarify how problems will be managed. If you don't have a contract, neither the remodeler nor the homeowner is protected when something goes wrong.



Requires cash or payment in full before starting the job. Shady remodelers demand cash and then run with the money. Many home owners have been stranded by paying in full up front.



Vastly underbids all other contractors. They may have the best price, but that doesn't guarantee the best work. Such contractors may cut costs on quality for your remodel, which can end up costing more when the home owner has to redo the work.



Cannot provide customer references. Professional remodelers should have current references they can provide from current and past clients.



Poor credit. A bad credit report suggests bad business practices that could harm your remodeling project.



Difficulty contacting the remodeler. Professionals have a physical office, mailing address, phone, and email. They should respond to your queries in a timely manner.

In Every issue we will offer tips and advice from Pat Mahoney, Chairman of MAHBA Remodelers Council. We encourage you to send your remodeling related questions to editor@memphisfixmagazine.com.