

4 Things to Consider When Comparing Roofing Contractors

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Nearly all roofing contractors offer free roofing estimates, but identifying the company that will give you the best value in products and service takes a little due diligence. An analysis of a company's overall price, materials, labor and management will give you a big picture view. With

reputable roofing contractors, estimates for repairs and replacements reflect more than just bottom line prices. Here are four things to consider before you choose a roofing contractor based solely on a lowest-price bid.

#1 Material Brands Used

When a roofing company hands you an unbelievably low-priced bid on your roofing installation or repair project, the first things that you need to question are material types and brands that the contractor plans to use on your home. Most roofing contractors install and repair roofs that are made of asphalt shingle, clay tile, metal, concrete, wood, slate, and composite materials. Asphalt shingles are often viewed as the most cost-effective roof material, but these shingles vary widely in quality. Look for contracting companies that use well-known brands such as CertainTeed, GAF, IKO and Owens Corning. These brands offer some of the most generous manufacturer warranties in the industry.

#2 Availability of Skilled Labor

It's no secret that the availability of skilled labor continues to lag behind demand in the roofing industry. A report that was published by the National Roofing Contractor's Association (NRCA) indicated that skilled labor shortages would continue to be an issue with roofing companies in the upcoming years. You want a roofing company that has access to an ample supply of skilled labor so that your project gets completed on time, within budget, and according to your specifications. Look for companies that value certifications such as the GAF Certified Contractor credential.

#3 Project Management Experience

Poorly managed roofing repairs lead to mistakes that can cost you more money in the long term. When you examine your roofing estimate, ask about the management processes that the company follows for its projects. Have the contractor representative explain the project's major milestones and associated timelines. Compare these variables with the timetables that you receive from other companies.

Also, make sure that your chosen roofing contractor assigns a point of contact who is knowledgeable of local building codes and can answer your questions at all phases of the project. Have a question about roof repairs? Your local roofing contractor has the answer.

#4 Licensed, Bonded and Insured

Outstanding roofing contractors have the credentials to safely and legally do business in your local area. These companies are licensed by the state and carry insurance that protects you against lawsuits for project-related accidents that could happen on your property. You can

obtain licensing and insurance information about your chosen contractor by calling them or visiting their website.

Conclusion

Great companies have great track records. In today's digital age, you can find out about a company's reputation rather quickly. Whether you're considering an established company or one that is new in town but has experienced staff, consumer information about roofing contractors and their primary employees are usually found online at consumer review and professional networking sites. The considerations that are described in this post will help you to establish your expectations and find the right contractor for your next roofing project.

Still have questions?

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