



Knowledge is Power When Choosing a Remodeling Contractor

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From your vision to a finished project—do your homework to get there unscathed.

According to the 2004 Survey by Remodeling Magazine, kitchens and windows are in the top ten remodeling projects that are an excellent return on investment at resale. However, stress from remodeling is also in the top ten, 2nd after divorce according to a recent survey. Finding the right contractor puts you on the path to a happy outcome for both you and your home. Before you set the appointment with a contractor, do your homework.

When choosing someone to interview, there are a number of questions to ask them on the phone:

- Are they a remodeling specialist? As anyone who watches “This Old House” knows, often unforeseen situations arise, and a remodeling specialist is more experienced in dealing with those circumstances
- Are they bonded, licensed and insured? Bonding and insurance companies generally require contractors to have licenses before they will underwrite them. Licenses are extremely important to good contractors. In the event you suffer some kind of loss due to the contractor’s performance (or non-performance) you will not have the same recourse with an unlicensed contractor.
- What kind of experience do they have, and is that experience relevant to the proposed project?
- Where is their office and/or showroom? It’s important that they have the stability of a place of business. It’s also important if you need to track them down.

Before you meet with them, do further investigation.

- In Arizona, you can check online at the Registrar of Contractors’ website to see if the firm is licensed and whether there are a number of registered complaints against the organization.
- Check their track record with the Better Business Bureau.

Things to ask contractors at the appointment

- Who is going to do the work? It’s not just an order for remodeling—get an understanding of the company’s process. Ask the contractor to explain their staff structure. Does the company assign a project manager, supervisor and customer service responsibilities? Get their names and ask them to introduce you to these individuals. Beware when all of these responsibilities lie with one person.

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- How complete is the estimate? Always do business with all of the elements in writing. Make certain everything is covered from demolition and removal of existing materials and new material and labor specifications. A reputable company does not write estimates on the back of a business card. Understand how they are using terms like “bid,” “estimate,” and “proposal.” Realize that until all of the details are determined, a contract should not be finalized. Get several estimates before you make a decision. And, if you have variations of estimates that exceed 10 to 15%, you should get a better understanding of the differences.
- Ask about the timing. When there isn’t enough emphasis on operations and project management, or the contractor is dependent on subcontractors, often the effect is delays and more delays. Demand a calendar—probably there will be changes, but at least you have a benchmark for the process.
- Be straightforward about how much you can spend. This information is as vital as most contractors will work on options to achieve your desires.
- References- ask for a list of previous customer references and follow-up with them. Questions like “: would you hire this company again?” should be asked. Ask if you can look at some previous similar jobs to give you a gauge as to the quality of their work. Also ask for supplier references. If suppliers aren’t paid on a timely basis, or if they are on C.O.D., it may be an indication that they have not established credit, or worse, they are struggling financially.

Make it easy on yourself and choose Republic West Remodeling.



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At Republic West Remodeling, we are proud of the more than 15,000 home remodeling projects that have added sophistication and style to our clients' homes, as well as countless kitchen and bath remodels, outdoor living spaces and room additions.

Let Republic West Remodeling transform your house into your dream home through an exclusive home remodeling process that focuses on The Dream Assurance Plan.

What is The Dream Assurance Plan?

The Dream Assurance Plan is built on a vision – an idea. The team of professionals at Republic West Remodeling has developed, through their years of experience and a passion for excellence, an exclusive home remodeling process that strives to deliver a pleasant experience for their customers. Many homeowners have come to expect the nightmare remodeling project that is so prevalent in today's market place. We would like to change that.

With Republic West Remodeling, you can be assured that your home remodeling project will be a *dream come true* throughout the entire process – from creative design to detailed planning to execution and construction.

We do what we say we will, for the price and on the timeline you expect.

Republic West Remodeling specializes in:

- Home Remodeling
- Kitchen Remodeling
- Bathroom Remodeling
- Room Additions
- Outdoor Living Spaces

Contact Republic West Remodeling for the highest quality luxury home remodeling services.

Call 480-478-8700 for your free consultation or visit our website at <http://www.RepublicWestRemodeling.com> today.

Republic West proudly serves all residents in the East & West Valley, the Phoenix Metro area, Scottsdale and Paradise Valley