



20 Questions to Ask Your Contractor Before Hiring Them

A guide for owners selecting the right commercial construction partner.

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Introduction

Choosing a contractor is one of the most important decisions in any construction project.

Experience & Qualifications

- Have you completed projects similar to mine?
- Can you provide references from recent clients?
- How long has your company been in business?
- Who will manage my project day-to-day and what is their experience?
- What is your safety record?

Budget & Cost Management

- How do you develop project budgets?
- How do you manage cost overruns?
- How are change orders handled?
- What cost risks should I anticipate?
- Can you provide conceptual budgeting before design is complete?

Scheduling & Communication

- How will project progress be communicated?
- How often will meetings occur?
- What scheduling software or tools do you use?
- How do you handle project delays?
- What information do you need from me to keep the project moving?

Preconstruction Services

- When should a contractor become involved?
- Can you assist with site evaluation?
- Can you identify potential budget concerns before design is complete?

Project Execution

- How do you ensure quality during construction?
- What differentiates your company from other contractors?



Red Flags to Watch For

- ✎ Cannot provide relevant project examples
- ✎ Avoids discussing risks
- ✎ Provides unrealistic schedules
- ✎ Unclear communication processes

What You're Really Looking For

A contractor who understands your goals, communicates clearly, provides realistic budgets, identifies risks early, and delivers consistent results.