

How to Choose a Remodeler

Maybe you've been there. Remodeling can be a miserable experience if you shop for a contractor based primarily on price. Nowhere is the saying: "You get what you pay for" more true than in remodeling. Think about the process and the effect on your life. Think about how much stress you want to add to your day. If you stay in your home during the remodeling, you will be literally "living with the workmen" throughout the process. The low-ball guys can be scary to have in your home, and their subs can be downright horrifying. The established contractor will have long-term relationships with "house trained" workmen. Before you consider hiring a contractor, ask him these questions.

Are you a registered contractor and do you register qualified projects with the State of Texas?

- All registered contractors will have an ID card issued from the Texas Residential Construction Commission (TRCC).

Do you carry General Liability Insurance and a Builder's Risk Policy?

- Ask to have his insurance company send the certificate directly to your home.
- Ask why general liability insurance is not enough anymore.

Have you been operating this business successfully for at least 10 years?

- I have been in business 20 years.

Look in the business white pages; does his company have a business listing?

- If not, he's working out of the back of his truck, and may not be there to honor any warranty issues.

Are you an active member in a local professional trade association, such as, Builder's Association Remodeler's Council?

- Nearly all professional contractors participate in these, and they require strict ethical standards for members. Wm. Shaw & Associates has been a member of both for about ten years.

Have you done this type of project before? In this part of town?

- If most of his work has been done in some other part of town, chances are your job will receive lower priority. We limit our jobs to the southwest quadrant of town.

Have you won local and national awards for service, quality, leadership and value in the remodeling industry?

- We consistently enter and win awards for work we design and build.

Do you offer a written warranty on your work?

- We offer a one-year warranty on all our projects upon full payment.

Are you an NAHB Certified Graduate Remodeler or NARI Certified Remodeler?

- These are nationally recognized marks of distinction of remodeling excellence and expertise. Bill Shaw has earned his "CGR" and "GMB" and teaches courses to other remodelers.

Are you willing to provide me with a company profile listing your bank officer and trade references?

- Like other professional and reputable contractors, we are happy to provide such information.

- Phone: 713-661-6664
713-666-1931
- Fax: 713-661-6664
- E-mail: wmslawandassoc@pdq.net