

CONTRACTOR

checklist


Choosing the right contractor for your project is the most important decision!

Here are some questions to ask when researching potential contractors for your landscaping project.


RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

- How long have you been in the landscaping business?
- What landscape training do you have?
- How are your employees trained?
- What landscape jobs have you done similar to my project? Have you built outdoor living features such as fireplaces and grill islands?

DESIGN

- Do you offer a design service? Is there a cost for this? Is the design hand-drawn or rendered in 3D?
- Do you have a website where I can see your designs?
-  **TIP:** Ask yourself if the contractor's designs are something you would like for your project?


WORKMANSHIP

- Do you have a portfolio of past project photos that I can see?
- Can I visit projects you've completed more than two years ago? *This will allow you to see how their work holds up over time.*
- Do you use edge restraints?
- Do you guarantee your work?
-  **TIP:** Pay attention to the details. Beware of awkward cuts and large gaps between pavers that are laid on a curve.


BASE PREPARATION

- What are your base preparation methods? What materials are used and why?
- Is there a standard procedure for base preparation or will you assess my site's unique needs?
- How do you plan to handle drainage?

SUB-CONTRACTING

-  **TIP:** Some contractors will hire other companies to perform parts of the work, like lighting and irrigation. Be sure to ask the contractor about these sub-contractors and how they will be managed.



DOCUMENTATION

- Are any permits required for my job and if so, who is responsible to secure them?
- Do you have the proper licensing for your work?
- Do you have liability insurance and are your employees covered by Workers' Compensation?
-  **TIP:** Make sure they provide a written contract. Get all the details in writing, no matter how big or small the job.

TIMING

- How far in advance are you booking projects?
- Do you have an estimate of how long my project might take?
- Do you require an upfront deposit to secure the timing of the project?
- What are the payment terms?

COMPATIBILITY

- Do you have a list of references I can call?
-  **TIP:** Do you like this contractor? Can you easily communicate and understand each other? Is this someone you can trust?
-  **TIP:** Ask if the person you're meeting will be on-site throughout the project or if someone else in the company will be your day-to-day contact person.