

5 TIPS YOU SHOULD KNOW WHEN HIRING A LANDSCAPE CONTRACTOR

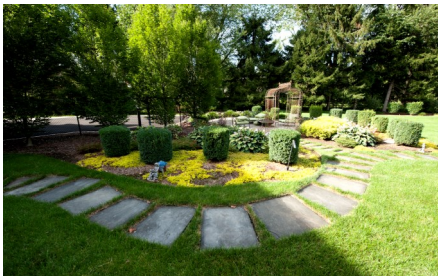
1. Research first!

The best source for beginning your search for a credible contractor is either referral from a trusted friend or colleague or on the internet. Majority of landscape contractors found online are legitimate. The internet is a means of checking the credibility of the contractor you have interest in. This will show their affiliation with the Association of Professional Landscape Designers and the Better Business Bureau. Clearly, these options are the most efficient and practical means to begin your search.



2. Make sure the landscape contractors you select hold a valid state license and certification from a professional organization.

Contracting with someone who does not carry a license gives you no recourse should you have a complaint against the contractor. Every homeowner wants to find the best price for their project, however, if you hire an unlicensed contractor you have no assurance of the project's quality - or even if the project will be finished at all. Licensed contractors are subject to laws designed to protect and defend the consumer. Check to make sure they have the appropriate licenses to do the work you are contracting for. If working with a landscape designer, check with the Association of Professional Landscape Designers to find out if they are certified. If working with a landscape architect, make sure that they are licensed with the state.

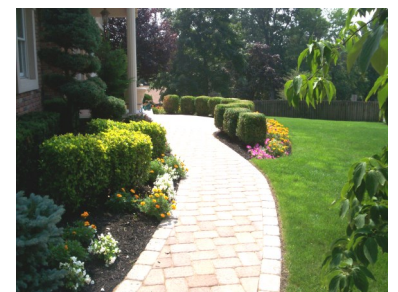


3. Set up appointments.

Once you have found a few companies you are interested in, contact them to set up an appointment. A representative from the company should come to your home or business and conduct an inspection to assess the work and provide you with a detailed estimate.

4. So you have done your research, checked the landscape contractors credentials, and reviewed your bids, NOW it is time to make your decision.

Analyze all bids and see what the differences are between the landscape contractor's companies. Do not let price be your deciding factor. In many cases, it is more beneficial to spend a few hundred dollars more to ensure your work is being done by a reputable contractor that offers a better warranty, or has been in business longer. Remember, this is your home, your landscaping project, and your investment. Make the smart decision.



5. Once you have done your research and found landscape contractors you might like to work with, ensure they have proof of Workman's Compensation and Liability Insurance.

Workman's Compensation protects you in the event a worker has an accident. Without it, you could be held liable if someone is injured while working on your property. The contractor should also carry an insurance policy that has a general liability aggregate limit of a minimum \$1,000,000. This protects your property should something happen to damage it. If your Landscape Contractor does not have this insurance, you could be held liable for any accidents that happen during your project, posing significant risks to your assets.

WE HOPE YOU FIND THIS HELPFUL!

HIRE SMART!



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