



## QUESTIONS YOU SHOULD ASK A POTENTIAL A DESIGNER OR CONTRACTOR!

Designing and building residential spaces is a specialty and you want to be sure the people you choose to work with understand your goals and desires for your project. Here are some questions you will want to get answers to from a prospective designer or contractor before you engage their services.

### DESIGNER QUESTIONS

1. How many years have you been in the industry?  
How many years have you been under your current business name?  
May I have a list of references?
2. Do you have a specialty?  
  
Color consulting, art placement, staging, soft goods including furnishings, kitchens, baths, other?
3. Do you have any professional certifications or formal education specific to the design industry?  
If so, what are they?
4. Do you have a showroom?  
Do you represent any specific lines of product related to design and/decorating?
5. Do you use design software such as 20-20, Chief Architect, CAD, etc.?

6. Do you carry Errors and Omissions insurance?  
Do you have a business license with the state of Washington as well as your local city?
7. How do you typically communicate with clients? Phone, fax, email or text?  
What is your availability: evenings, weekends or weekdays only?
8. What is an example of a project mishap or significant change and how did you remedy it?  
How were the extra costs covered and by whom?
9. Do you have employees?  
If so, how long have your employees been working with your firm?
10. What methods do you use to keep current on design and construction trends?

## **CONTRACTOR QUESTIONS**

1. How many years have you been in the industry?  
How many years have you been under your current business name?  
May I have a list of references?
2. Are you licensed, bonded and insured?  
What is your Washington State Labor & Industries license number?
3. Do you have a specialty?  
Remodeling, new construction, kitchens, baths, whole house remodels, additions?
4. On average, how long have your current employees worked for you?
5. How often can we expect to see you on our job site?  
Who will we see most often on our job, you, your foreman or a project manager?
6. How do you communicate with clients? Phone, fax, email or text?  
What is your availability: evenings, weekends or weekdays only?

7. Please give an example of a project mishap. How did you remedy it?  
How were the extra costs covered and by whom?
8. How would you typically go about protecting my home, family and pets during construction?
9. Do you hire labor outside of the county?  
Do you source materials outside of the county, state, or U.S.?
10. What resources do you use to keep current on changes in building codes and trends?

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