

Suggestions for selecting contractor emphasize workmanship

The National Home Improvement Council has some suggestions for selecting a contractor when the homeowner decides to have remodeling work done. These are:

- Employ a contractor with an established place of business, preferably in or near the homeowner's hometown.
- Be sure the contractor has adequate financial

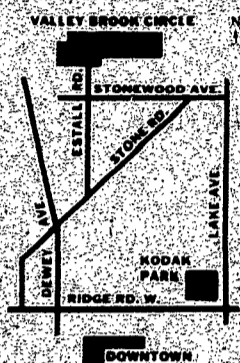
- references (check past customers, Better Business Bureau and local Chamber of Commerce);
- Discuss the proposed project with the contractor, note his suggestions and his method of evaluating the project;
- Do not be rushed when making a decision;
- Get a written agreement on plans and specifications;

- Understand the quality of materials and workmanship required;
 - Do not "shop" with the contractor on prices of materials and labor costs.
- In addition, there are tips for homeowners on working with contractors, such as studying and approving

- plans before work begins and getting specifications on brand name and quantity of materials.
- Homeowners would be wise to make certain the contractor provides certification of insurance covering workmen's compensation, property damage and per-

sonal liability. Also, the homeowner might find out if the contractor guarantees to clean up debris after the job is finished. Most contractors offer this, but it is an additional labor cost and will raise the price of the job.

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