

# Checklist for Finding and Hiring a Remodeler

*Doing your homework will help you have a more successful experience.*

Use this checklist to help you select a home remodeler to work on your home:

- Make sure the builder or home remodeler has a permanent business location and a good reputation with local banks and suppliers. You can also ask family, friends or coworkers for recommendations.
- Find out how long they have been in the remodeling business. It usually takes three to five years to establish a financially sound business. You want to make sure they will be around after the construction is complete to service any warranties.
- Verify the remodeler has the appropriate license(s) in your state.
- Look for professional designations such as Certified Aging-In-Place Specialists CAPS or Certified Graduate Remodeler (CGR).
- Check out the company's rating and if there have been any complaints filed with your state office of consumer protection or local Better Business Bureau: [www.bbb.org](http://www.bbb.org).
- Make sure the remodeler has sufficient workers compensation and general liability insurance. If not, you may be liable for any construction-related accidents on your premises.
- Ask the remodeler to provide you with names of previous customers. If they won't, beware. If they do, ask the customers if they would hire the remodeler again.
- Make sure the remodeler provides you with a complete and clearly written contract.
- Be cautious of unusually low-priced bids. If the remodeler is unable to pay for the materials and labor as the project proceeds, this may indicate a potential problem. Keep in mind that less expensive does not necessarily mean better!