

Estimate a Home Improvement Project Ebook

How to get a fair estimate from a contractor for a home improvement project is a tricky thing to do. This e-book will simplify the process and provide you with a sense that you really did get the best price if you follow the suggestions.

The purpose of getting a real quality estimate from a potential contractor can only be achieved IF you give him or her all of the proper input to begin with. In order to compare apples to apples, each potential contractor must be given the same information in order for you to make an informed decision based on the price, length of time to accomplish the job or other criteria.

I suggest typing up a piece of paper and including the main points of the job you want to price out. Make copies and distribute to all candidates for their analysis. Keep a copy for yourself.

Contact the potential contractor and make an appointment to see him or her in person. When visiting him or her, take special notice of the surroundings. Note to yourself if the office is clean, organized and don't be afraid to search for any signs of referrals or other special awards that this company may have achieved.

Listening attentively to his questions. Then correcting any misunderstandings at this early point will help avoid costly errors down the road. Smile, be friendly but be sure YOU understand things he or she says. Ask questions to clarify any items that do not make sense to you.

Ask for alternatives if you feel your ideas may come in too expensive. Remember, this contractor should have already finished jobs much like you want him to do if he is a reputable candidate.

Do not allow the contractor to run the meeting. It is YOUR project, YOUR money and right now, it is YOUR time that is being invested.

You need to feel confident that YOU are getting what YOU want. He needs YOU as badly as YOU think you need him.

Before leaving the meeting, ask for solid referrals. These should include addresses, amount of time the job took and possibly even the referral's name and phone number. You may not get all of this information, but it won't hurt to ask. Get this information in writing so you can reference it in the future if need be.

Once you know with whom you will most likely be working with, ask him or her to visit your site and do an inspection to make for the best relationship possible.

While interviewing contractors, establish any perimeters he or she will volunteer....