



## *Rickard's Complete Renovations, Inc.*

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### *Finding and Securing a Contractor*

How do I know where to begin looking for a good contractor? There are many methods to finding a good contractor. Here are just a few tips:

1. Ask family or friends who have had renovations to their home. They are a good source for recommendations, helpful hints and what to avoid.
2. Look around at construction signs. A contractor who will create a professional sign or nicely lettered vehicles is more likely someone who will do quality work.
3. Visit your local custom suppliers. They know the reputation of many contractors. Ask a salesman or two who they would recommend.
4. Once you get a name or two, visit their web site. Do they have pictures of previous jobs? Is their web site up-to-date? Are they what you are looking for?

Securing the right contractor can be an overwhelming task. There are many contractors from which to choose. How do you know they can do what they claim? Here are a few more tips on securing your contractor:

1. Ask for their business license and license number. Call the State Licensing Commission and make sure it is active. You can also visit your state's board for contractors to see if they have had any judgments and if they were resolved. If there were issues, were they resolved? Resolution is a good indicator that a contractor is concerned with staying in business.
2. Ask if they are insured? Do they have liability and workers comp insurance? This is very important should someone get hurt related to the construction process and your contractor is not licensed. You can be held liable. Your contractor's insurance may protect you from suit from any subcontractors as well.
3. References are crucial. Ask for them. Previous clients will be able to let you know if this contractor can actually do what they claim and if they have done it. I carry a list of references with me and give them out on my first visit; it is very important to me what our clients have to say about us.
4. Go with your instincts. If the contractor wants you to pull the permit, run, run far and fast. This is an old trick that usually means there is an insufficient license or no license at all.

Quality contractors are around if you look in the right places and stick to some rules. A good contractor is not going to be the cheapest guy. Good quality work will not be cheap. There will not be any shortcuts or using inferior products. Remember the old saying, "You get what you pay for." Hiring a contractor is no exception. How much is your home worth to you?