



The DOs and DON'Ts of Choosing a Contractor

One of the most stressful parts of any energy efficiency project is choosing a contractor.

The contractor has to not only install the equipment, but also do everything from following safety codes to honoring material warranties — so choosing the right person could be the difference between equipment that lasts and equipment that ends up giving you more problems than solutions.

We can help. Consider these things when choosing your contractor.

Do:

- Get quotes from more than one contractor and compare prices and offerings
- Conduct interviews and hire someone you're comfortable communicating with
- Confirm the contractor is licensed to work in your area and is bonded and insured
- Determine who will actually be installing the equipment
 - If it's a subcontractor, make sure they meet legal requirements as well
- Make sure the contractor has experience with the type of project(s) you want completed
- Look into the contractor's history — ask for work references, call previous clients or view photos/make site visits of completed projects
- Once you've chosen a contractor, create a detailed contract that explicitly lists your requirements (costs, payment method, start date, completion date, installed materials and so on) and both sign it

Don't:

- Hire someone you don't feel you can trust
- Go with someone just because they're the lowest bidder (price level can reflect quality level)
- Hire someone who is unresponsive to your inquiries

If you need more information on how to choose a contractor, contact us:

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