



Commonly Asked Questions

The following questions were adapted from the Canadian Home Builders Association and will help you select a builder that's right for you.

- Is home building your full-time profession?**
Be cautious if a contractor proposes to build your home on a part-time basis. Sometimes part-time builders will offer "discounts" because they have to fit you in around their other job schedule. Consider that if a contractor has a good solid reputation and is dedicated to his or her profession, they would likely not offer you a "part-time" solution.
- What is your experience with pre-fabricated or panelized homes?**
Some builders have a lot of experience with factory framed homes, while others have little. Be sure that your builder understands the concept of a panelized home and quotes accordingly.
- How long have you been in business?**
A good contractor is open and proud of his business, whether he's been around for 2 or 20 years. A reputable builder will be able to show you his or her certification and explain his training and experience. Beware of a builder who does not want to offer you this information freely.
- Are you a member of a Home Builder's Association?**
While not all good contractors are members of a Home Builder's Association, ones that are generally more committed to the industry are. Furthermore, members of the Canadian Home Builder's Association must agree to adhere to a Code of Ethics that calls for "fair and honest dealings with consumers".
- Will you give references from your past clients?**
A reputable builder will have no problem giving out references. Here are some of the questions you may want to ask: Was the home or renovation completed on time and on budget? What was the builder like to work with? Did you feel that the work was high quality? Were there any issues or difficulties with the project and how did the builder handle this?
- Is it possible to visit a current work site?**
A work site often offers many clues about the quality of the work and about the company. Ask for a tour of a current build and a chance to meet the work crew. Look at the details on-site: Is the site relatively clean? Are the building materials stored in a proper manner? Are proper safety procedures being followed? Is the builder open and frank with all your questions as you tour the site?