TOP 10 THINGS YOU SHOULD NEVER DO WHEN HIRING A CONTRACTOR

Protect your home, your money, and your peace of mind before repair work begins.

1 Do not hire family or friends without treating the job professionally.
Use the same written agreement, verification, payment schedule, and expectations you would use with any contractor.

2 Do not let charm, appearance, or a polished sales pitch replace verification.
A friendly personality is not proof of licensing, insurance, experience, or quality workmanship.

3 Do not pretend you know nothing.
Ask questions, compare answers, research the repair, and make it clear that you will verify important details.

4 Never pay the full price before the work is complete.
Use a written payment schedule tied to clearly completed stages. Avoid large cash payments and always obtain receipts.

5 Never skip references.
Ask for at least five recent customers, call each one, and ask whether the work was completed on time, on budget, and to their satisfaction.

6 Do not hand over unrestricted money for supplies.
Request a written materials list. When practical, order directly from a reputable supplier and authorize pickup only after confirming the contractor's identity.

7 Never begin without a written contract.
Include the scope of work, materials, price, payment schedule, start and completion dates, cleanup, permits, change orders, and warranty terms.

8 Never allow an unverified worker into your home.
Confirm identity and company information. Request proof of insurance and any required license before access or work begins.

9 Never rely on promises alone.
Ask to see recent project photos and, when appropriate, verify that the contractor actually completed the work shown.

10 Do not ignore repeated no-shows or poor communication.
Set expectations in writing. If a contractor repeatedly misses appointments without a reasonable explanation, move on before paying or authorizing work.

BEFORE YOU HIRE: Verify identity, insurance, required licensing, references, written terms, and payment expectations. Trust your instincts - and document everything.

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