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## 6 Tips for Choosing the RIGHT Contractor

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## **6 Tips for Choosing the RIGHT Contractor**

Saves you time and money.

One of the most difficult questions to ask is....

### **DID WE PICK THE RIGHT CONTRACTOR FOR THE PROJECT?**

*It is important to take great care when determining which Contractor you should trust to complete major demolition and construction on your home or business. Below are the questions to ask during the interview process to help you select the most qualified contractor for your project.*

**Tip #1, Certification:** Is the potential Company HAAG Certified? HAAG certification means the company is thoroughly trained to properly identify and document damage related from a storm. This accrediting can be valuable when inspecting your property. If the contractor does not have this certification, they will be at a disadvantage when meeting the Insurance Adjuster.

This Means: A HAAG certified company can gain more funding for the homeowner and a better product.

***1st Avenue Construction, Inc. managers are required to complete this certification provided by expert HAAG engineers. Insurance Companies require their adjuster to be certified.***

**Tip #2, Insurance:** What insurance does the company carry? It's important to know what coverage the company you contract with carries.

General Liability Insurance and Workers Compensation policies are a must for any contractor. Verify your contractor carries insurance and the amount carried. Aggregate: The proper amount a company should have is 2 Million AGGREGATE. This means that during the lifetime of a policy (usually one year), the insurer will pay up to \$2 million to cover claims.

Occurrence: 1 Million OCCURRENCE. This means that while the policy is active, the insurer will pay up to \$1 million to cover any single claim. This Means: A contractor without proper coverage could put you at risk, even if you are not involved in their negligence.

***1st Avenue Construction, Inc. provides proof of our insurance to all valued customers.***

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**Tip #3, Location:** Where is the company based? This question is a storm chasers' nightmare. Dealing with out-of-town companies could result in having a warranty "not worth the paper it was written on". (In the contracting industry we call them File tippers). Companies tip the file cabinet upside-down and drive away. Be sure that you only work with proven Colorado-based contractors. Be cautious of companies that represent themselves as national organizations, as these are often storm-chasing companies that only stay in town until a larger storm happens elsewhere.

This Means: Stay local. It could cost the homeowner the warranty and leave you stranded in the long run.

***1st Avenue Construction, Inc. has been serving Colorado since 2002.***

**Tip #4, Warranties:** What workmanship & manufacturer's warranties does the potential company provide? Not all Contractors are created equal, nor are the roofs or other construction work that they provide.

If your roof is not installed by a certified contractor in compliance with manufacturer's specifications, your warranty may not be valid, regardless of what is stated on the shingle wrapper on the contract.

Warranties must be registered with the manufacturer in a timely manner or it will provide you limited pro-rated coverage at best. Equally important to the warranty is the workmanship when installing the roof.

**This Means:** Knowing how to keep the warranty valid is critical for a long term investment in a roof. Know the company you're investing in and the quality of their work. Ask for referrals.

***1st Avenue Construction, Inc. is a certified contractor and works with many manufacturers which allows us to offer the best extended warranties available to better protect your lifetime roofing system investment. We also provide a ten Year Workmanship Warranty.***

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**Tip #5, Suppliers:** Ask for a list of your suppliers. Contacting these vendors to investigate contractors will help protect you from potential mechanic's liens. Suppliers can file for nonpayment by the contractor. Suppliers also can be a resource to verify payment history.

This Means: Contractors who don't pay for their supplies can put a lien on a house, your house.

***1st Avenue Construction, Inc. has established the best relationships and great credit history with multiple distributors. Industry partnerships are the lifeline of a well qualified contractor. BE CAREFUL OF THE CONTRACTOR THAT ASKS FOR MONEY UPFRONT.***

**Tip #6, Permits:** Ask the potential contractor will you obtain a permit for this job? Most areas require a licensed contractor to obtain a building permit for roofing work. Never allow a contractor to do a job "under the radar" as the project could be shut down by a Building Department Inspector.

**This Means:** If allowed, your project may never be brought up to today's code standards which will result in shortcuts to be taken during installation without the accountability of an inspection.

***1st Avenue Construction, Inc. is licensed in dozens of jurisdictions; we always meet or exceed all code requirements for our work.***