

5
things
you
need
to know:

1. Protect yourself, when considering a roofing contractor; make sure they have proper insurance in place, liability and WCB
2. Does your contractor have a permanent and identifiable place of address?
3. Is your roofing contractor fully licensed?
4. Can your roofing contractor provide references or places where you can go see their previous jobs?
5. Does your roofing contractor belong to national, local, or regional associations?

CHOOSING A

Roofing Company



CHOOSING A ROOFING COMPANY is a big decision, after all, the roof of your home is your primary defence against the elements on what is likely going to be the biggest investment you make in your lifetime-your home. When choosing a roofing company to work on your home, there are so many things to consider-the price of the job is only part of the equation.

Tenure of the company you choose to work on your home is a very important consideration. Since 2011, 11 of 28 roofing companies in the Comox Valley have gone out of business. That's 40%! This is important simply because if a company leaves or goes under, your workmanship warranty is void, as is your shingle warranty, if they were improperly installed. Your roofing company should have a permanent, identifiable place of business, complete with phone number, a physical address and appropriate business licenses. This information should be provided along with your written proposal.

Does your roofing contractor keep abreast of the latest developments in the industry? A professional contractor will belong to local, regional and, or national associations and attend seminars on the problems and latest developments in the industry. Ask your contractor if they belong to the RCABC - Roofing Contractor Association of BC.

Qualified contractors will have insurance. They should have insurance certificates showing both workers compensation and general liability insurance. Homeowners can suffer a needless expense if a contractor doesn't have this coverage. Also ensure that your contractor is in fact licensed and they have the appropriate licenses to do the work. Your roofing contractor should have a Hot Work Endorsement for Torch on SBS roofing, used in low slope or flat roof applications. If your roofer isn't endorsed, and your home burns down, your insurance may not cover the loss.

A qualified roofing contractor will have plenty of references of past customers who will have had the same work done as you will be getting. Source out where these jobs were done and go look at them. How do they look? This is a great opportunity to look at the roof system you have selected for your home. Would these people recommend the roofing contractor who did the job on their home, or was there problems.

The roofing contractor may be an approved applicator for one or more roofing material manufacturers. Ask if the product you chose has an approved applicator program and if your roofing contractor is certified. Keep in mind that most manufacturers of products for low sloped roofs have approved applicator programs, and most manufacturers of shingles and tile do not have these programs.

All roofing contractors should have a written safety program. An emphasis on safety lowers the cost of doing business and helps to assure that your job will go smoothly. Ask about any safety programs. They should also have a quality assurance program. The work that is done will be inspected, so find out who will be doing it.

A roofing contractor must be financially stable. In some respects, this goes back to how long they have been in the community, do they have an actual address and how busy they are. Also, there should be no requirement for any money up front. A legitimate contractor will accept payment in full, once the work is done. Most of all, a roofing contractor must make you feel comfortable that they have the experience and the expertise to do the job of handling the installation you require. Hopefully, you have seen them around your town, installing roofs on other residences and commercial buildings.

"A guarantee is only as good as the company behind it."

Lyle Nelson, Nelson Roofing & Sheet Metal Ltd.