## Ask these questions of contractor

> Slik Plants & Flowers

Pottery

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e Cerae

n Wicker:

Q: I have been getting bids on an addition for our home. I have three contractors that have bid on the project. There is some variation in the bids, but we want a method for choosing the best contractor of the three. Do you have any suggestions?

A: One of the hardest decisions you will ever make about your home is

Warehouse

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SALE PRICE

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TREES on SALE

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TREES.

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SALE PRICE

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Reg. Price \$45.00

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choosing a contractor to remodel. Your home may be your most important asset. Although there will be variations in each bid, you can ask the contractors to explain the differences. They should be able to justify any large price discrepancies. Our company has developed a checklist that we give to the homeowner when presenting an estimate. It is very

important, to both the contractor and the homeowner, that the homeowner is happy with their choice and that the decision was based on an educated or informed basis. Following is our Contractor Checklist. You can use it to gather information on each contractor.

1. Licensed by the State of Michigan

as builders 2. Proof of \$1 million of liability cov-

3. Proof of carrying and/or exceeding all workmen's compensation qualifications

4. Extensive referral list of customers with 97 percent referral generated business

ss
5. Prompt return of phone calls
6. Contractor not only arrived, but on time, for the estimate

7. Product samples/chains brought to the customer's home

8. Quotation received within promised time

9. Free estimates consisting of no hidden or surprise costs

10. One stop shopping-tradesman in all areas (plumbing, electrial drywall, painting, flooring)

11. On-staff architectural design ser-

12. Contractor willing to obtain per-



\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

13. Did the contractor offer suggestions for an even better finished prod-

14. Payments needed only upon completion of project (with the exception of larger jobs in which payments are made at intervals or when custom materials are being ordered)

15. No job jumping/a full day's work performed

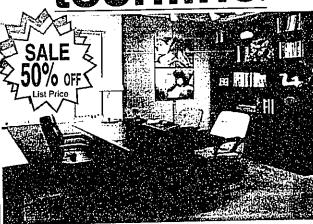
16. Dally cleanup

17. Is the contractor polite and courteous?

18. Is the contractor willing to work with you to obtain your modification

James Faydenko, Catner Home Improvement Inc., Westland, 313-326-7225.





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## DON YOUR PELMET!

While the top treatment known as a value is a shortened version of a curtain and a cornice is a sold top treatment made o painted or upitolistered wood, a pelmet is a cross between a valance and a cornice. It made of lined or stiffened ungathered fabric it can be gently shaped along the botton edge, much like a cornice, or cut in intrict designs, its shape and design can be inspected by the fabric, by the motifs in the room furnishings, or by architectural details in the room. And, any of the trims appropriate for cornices, such as well, braid, and fringe, will work on pelmets as well. For a tradillina finishing touch, pelmets with deeply cut edge that form points can be outfitted with smat assests.

tassels.

Window treatments add drama and personality to a room. SCOTT SHUPTHINE cashelp you determine the window treatment hat would be most flattering to your hom Our goal is to make the interior design process fun and rewarding. We provide architectural advice and recommendations a well as necessary drawings an emeasurements. If you're adding new items is a room, well assist you in re-arranging cashin furniture and decorations. Visil us at 977 r. 14 Mile Rd., Troy, (248-349-0044), Busines hours are M. T. Th. & P. 10-9, W. & Sci. 10 and by appointment, This weekend only, we match competitor's offer.

HPT: To impart addi-tional texture and body to a peimet, use quilted fabric.