

let's remodel

Ask these questions of contractor

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

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 coverage
3. Proof of carrying and/or exceeding all workmen's compensation qualifications
4. Extensive referral list of customers with 97 percent referral generated business
5. Prompt return of phone calls
6. Contractor not only arrived, but on time, for the estimate
7. Product samples/chairs 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, electrical drywall, painting, flooring)
11. On-staff architectural design services
12. Contractor willing to obtain permits



13. Did the contractor offer suggestions for an even better finished product?
 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. Daily cleanup
 17. Is the contractor polite and courteous?
 18. Is the contractor willing to work with you to obtain your modification goals?
- James Faydenko, Catner Home Improvement Inc., Westland, 313-326-7225.



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INTERIOR IDEAS

with Kasty Pierson, A.S.I.D.

DON YOUR PELMET!

While the top treatment known as a valance is a shortened version of a curtain and a cornice is a solid top treatment made of painted or upholstered wood, a pelmet is a cross between a valance and a cornice. It is made of lined or stiffened ungathered fabric. It can be gently shaped along the bottom edge, much like a cornice, or cut in artistic designs. Its shape and design can be inspired by the fabric, by the motifs in the room's 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 traditional finishing touch, pelmets with deeply cut edges that form points can be outfitted with small tassels.

Window treatments add drama and personality to a room. SCOTT SHUPTRINE can help you determine the window treatment that would be most flattering to your home. Our goal is to make the interior design process fun and rewarding. We provide architectural advice and recommendations as well as necessary drawings and measurements. If you're adding new items to a room, we'll assist you in re-arranging existing furniture and decorations. Visit us at 977 E. 14 Mile Rd., Troy, (248-616-3585) or 4360 W. Oaks Drive, Novi (248-349-0044). Business hours are M, T, Th, & F 10-9, W & Sat 10-6 and by appointment. This weekend only, we match competitor's offer.

HINT: To impart additional texture and body to a pelmet, use quilted fabric.

SCOTT SHUPTRINE STUDIO