

7 THINGS TO ASK YOURSELF WHEN CHOOSING A FOUNDATION REPAIR CONTRACTOR

So, you've gone through the process of having 3 or more foundation repair contractors visit your home to conduct their assessments and provided you with a proposal for their services, but none of the proposals are having the same work being performed. Here is an easy checklist to confirm that you are choosing the best fix for your home and your family's biggest investment.

1. IS THE COMPANY A LICENSED CONTRACTOR?

- Yes, people and companies still try to skate the system by not being a licensed contractor. The reason they do this is to save on business overhead costs that include not paying for workers comp, unemployment, and liability insurance. If you hire these contractors and employees get hurt or injured on your property, you could be left stuck being responsible for the expenses. If the contractor doesn't carry the proper insurances, then in the event that the contractor performs unsatisfactory or not up to code work to your home during the project, you could hold the burden of those additional repair costs. ALWAYS ask for the contractor's license information. A quick search on the CSLB of the license number will show if the contractor's license is active as well as showing they carry workers comp and bonding information.

2. DOES THE CONTRACTOR HAVE THE CORRECT LICENSE(S) TO PERFORM THE WORK?

- Just like you wouldn't want a heart surgeon to perform the work of a neurosurgeon, you wouldn't want an electrician to handle a foundation repair or a plumber to carry on the task of a mason company. Having the correct training and licenses for the project is ideal for a successful project.

3. DO YOU COMPLETELY UNDERSTAND HOW THE CONTRACTOR WILL FIX/REPAIR YOUR HOME?

- You would be surprised how many companies do not properly inform people of how they will fix their home and what to expect before, during, and after the construction. Make sure you are fully aware of all the things that may arise for your project. Make sure you have the knowledge and understanding of the product being utilized on your project, the procedures on how the contractor will fix/repair the home, how will the contractor communicate with you during the repair process, and what kind of warranty is being provided for the repairs.

4. DO YOU HAVE A CLEAR UNDERSTANDING OF WHY THE CONTRACTOR IS MAKING THE RECOMMENDED REPAIRS?

- Not all repair plans and recommendations are created equal! Make sure that your contractor has provided you with a repair plan that shows floor elevations, the amount, type, and area of repair, as well as reasoning as to WHY this repair is the best solution to fix your home's foundation. Floor elevations tell a lot about what areas have been effected and are in need of repair. The amount of settlement that has occurred directly correlates with the area that the repairs should take place in. If you do not have this information, your not able to know exactly what kind of recovery will be possible with your home. You will be relying on your contractor to verbally tell you that their repair is the best fix without numbers to back it up. The numbers NEVER lie.

5. DOES THE CONTRACTOR HAVE GREAT REVIEWS, REFERRALS, AND JOB STORIES OF PREVIOUS CUSTOMERS?

- In the world we currently live in, it is easy to have people leave reviews about a company. Same goes with contractors. Going online and reviewing the Google, Yelp, and other 3rd party sites will allow you to gain insight into how the company will treat you and your home. Companies will also showcase previous projects on their website and social media. Do a quick search and your will find out a lot more about processes, procedures, and expectations.

6. DOES THE CONTRACTOR HAVE YOUR BEST INTERESTS IN MIND?

- Just like we all hate car sales men with their slicked backed greasy hair, we all hate the estimator that wants to push unneeded repairs to your home without any valid reasoning, besides padding their company's wallet. Making sure the company representative wants what is best for you and your home has to be at the top of the list. Ask them the question "Would this be the fix that you would do, if you were in my situation?"

7. DOES THE CONTRACTOR GIVE YOU THE GOOD FEELING THAT THEY WILL MEET ALL OF YOUR EXPECTATIONS?

- At the end of the day you have done your research, you have looked at reviews, and have been provided information about your home and project. With all your newly gained knowledge you are ready to choose the contractor that is best for you. The last thing you want to have is buyers remorse in your decision. At the end of the day you know what is best for you, your home, and your family.