

Top Things to Look for When Choosing a Landscape Contractor

1. How many years has the company been in business?

The company's years in business reflects how experienced they are in all facets of design and construction. It is quite important for staff to have extensive training in plant growth habits, resistance to animals and light/shade tolerance. In addition the staff should be trained as to whether or not a plant will keep its leaves or whether it is deciduous. These factors are essential in ensuring the beauty of your landscape for years to come.

2. What services does the company provide?

Landscaping requires a specific sequence of events that must be followed in order to ensure outstanding completion of your project. For example, irrigation lines should be put in before seed or sod is laid down. Patios, walkways and retaining walls should be constructed before plantings are arranged and planted.

Look for a contractor that either performs many services or who will act as the general contractor and coordinate your entire project. The fewer companies involved, the easier the process.

3. Does the company take safety seriously?

Be sure that your landscape contractor is insured and that they will perform a markout of your utility lines before construction begins.

4. Are you given a start and completion date?

It is essential for your landscape contractor to put your start and completion dates in writing. This will ensure that your project is completed in a timely manner.

5. How accessible is the company and do you have a primary contact?

The opportunity to have a primary contact provides you with less hassle and more rapid responses. In addition, it is appropriate to ask what position your primary contact holds in the company. A contact that is an owner or a division head will ensure that your needs are tended to in a timely fashion. Also, make sure your contractor puts in writing a guarantee to have a person who can effectively communicate with you on the jobsite throughout the entire project.



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6. Can you custom pick your own plants, trees and shrubs?

Each plant, shrub and tree is unique in shape, size and color. The ability to custom pick each individual element of your landscape allows you to become truly involved in your project and leave a personal touch.

7. Can the company provide referrals, show you pictures, or bring you to past jobs?

A picture is worth a thousand words...and so is a customer referral. Be sure to ask your landscape contractor for a list of referrals, pictures, or if you are able to visit previously completed projects.

8. Has the company won any awards for their work?

If your landscape contractor has won awards on a city, state or national level, it demonstrates that they have been recognized for their quality and professionalism.

9. Can you visit the company's site or facilities?

Visiting a reputable company's facilities should provide you with a comfort level to help determine whether or not that company will back their warranty and workmanship should plants perish or any other problems arise.

