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Needless to say, the law favors consumers against fraudulent general contractors and remodelers. But that doesnâ€™t always protect a person from being duped. Here are a few things that you ought to know about a general contractor.

- In some places like New York and Washington general contractors are required to furnish a bond to the Department of Labor and Industries. This deposit shall be used to compensate aggrieved customers looking for compensation from customers.

- In some places the contractor is required to furnish a notice to the customer for residential projects that are over $1000 and commercial projects that are over $60,000. Even you can ask the contractor to post a bond for the entire cost of the project if it costs more than $6,000.

- General contractors who are engaged in gutter cleaning, lawn care, pruning, window washing etc. need not seek license. But contractors whose work adds to or subtracts from the real estate must register their business and also provide bonds.

- Before you begin a project make sure that you explain things to your general contractor clearly. You donâ€™t want a misunderstanding that may result in costly reworks.

- The contractor that you hire should be registered. Also look for reputation. An internet search will reveal comments about his past works. You can also ask for references from friends and family members. Architects are also a good source of reference.

- And when advancing money for materials, rather than paying the construction company, you can pay checks directly to the supply house. A disclosure statement prior to commencing work on the project should be made available to the client.

- Make sure that you are aware of the local building permit, and that all inspections are in place.

- And when looking for contractors avoid those who cannot provide references or offer references that cannot be verified. Some contractors ask you to make the entire payment up front or ask you to pay by cash. A written contract is a must and a contractor who cannot do so, should be avoided. Also beware of people who make promises that are too good to be true.

- When you speak to the contractor pay attention to his attitude. Qualified and professional contractors provide all documents related to their credentials and track records even before you ask. Contractors that seem vague and try to avoid a commitment are best avoided.

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The Author of this article manages a a construction company and helps people find a competent a general contractor.

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