



CHECKLIST : When Hiring a Professional Contractor

Step #1 – Finding a Professional Contractor

You can find a Professional Contractor by:

- ❑ Asking your utility company for suggestions.
- ❑ Consulting friends and neighbors.
- ❑ Looking in the phone book “Yellow Pages” under “Insulation Contractors”, “Construction” or a similar heading. Remember that a contractor has the special skills needed to insulate sidewalls as well as to do an expert job of insulating ceilings and floors.
- ❑ Contacting the Insulation Contractors Association of America (ICAA) at www.insulate.org for a list of certified contractors in your area.

Step #2 – Contact Several Contractors for Estimates

The next step is to call two or three contractors to quote your job. You should judge a contractor’s reliability as well as his price. Here are some suggestions:

- ❑ Check a contractor with the local Better Business Bureau (also listed in the phone book).
- ❑ Ask a contractor for references, including other homeowners for whom he has done work. Check them out.
- ❑ Give all the contractors exactly the same description of what you want done. For example, say, “I want to add R-19 to my attic floor,” then stay with that specification and that way of saying it. Don’t be satisfied if a contractor says, “Okay, I’ll add 6 inches.”
- ❑ If a contractor is going to blow insulation in your attic, make sure the written contract states R-value, the minimum thickness and the number of bags of insulation to be used to achieve the R-value. In addition, you can check the bag label yourself.
- ❑ Ask a contractor how he pays his installers, is it by the number of square feet they install or by the hour? If he pays them by square footage, they might do a hasty job on your house just so they can get on to the next one.
- ❑ Ask a contractor for proof of the insurance he carries. Does he have insurance to protect his own men if they are injured? Are you covered if one of his men damages your house?