

Reno Plumber



Finding the Best Plumber

Questions you should ask

How to hire a plumber

How to tell if they are qualified

How to find a good plumber in the Reno area

So you have decided it is time to bring in a professional plumber. Whether you are fixing that leaky faucet that keeps you up at night or remodeling your bathroom or kitchen there are many things to consider when making this important decision.

Steps to finding a good plumber:

- 1.) Check to make sure that they are licensed and insured.
- 2.) Get two or more references.
- 3.) Ask how long they have been in business.
- 4.) Get at least one other bid for the job to make sure they are not ripping you off.
- 5.) Find a plumber that will give you pricing for small jobs over the phone.
- 6.) Get flat rate estimates so you know the total you will pay beforehand.
- 7.) Ask friends and family for plumber referrals.



The best place to start asking about a plumber is your family and friends. Other good sources of referrals include contractors, real estate agents and your local plumbing supply store. Your city may even be able to provide a list of recommended plumbers who are familiar with the codes in your area. When asking for referrals, be sure to check the type of job the plumber was called in to accomplish. Also, determine if the plumber specializes in residential or commercial work.

Some good questions to ask:

Were you happy with the quality provided by the plumbing contractor?

Everybody has their own ideas of quality, so you should take a look at their recent plumbing job and judge for yourself.

Did the plumbing contractor protect surfaces or areas?

Moving and protecting furniture is a major concern but don't forget about the flooring. Did they use heat shields to protect the cabinets? Did they lay down drop cloths to keep your floors from

being scuffed or chipped? If your plumbing issues are outside then how will they leave your yard after digging up old pipes? If a plumber was sloppy with one customer chances are they will be sloppy with all of them. If you are left to clean up after your plumber this will cost you more time and money and frustration.

Were they courteous and polite?

This is a very important consideration. The entire experience, from beginning to end, needs to be as stress free as possible. Plus if the plumber enjoys their job, the quality and attention to details will be better. The customer's attitude can and will affect the entire job. Hopefully this will be the first question you ask. If the answer to this question is "no" then do not go any further, you don't want to work with that person.

Is the warranty included?

If a warranty was included find out if it has a reasonable amount of time before expiring, 3 years is enough, and if it has any value. Simply stating a warranty isn't enough. Get it in writing and understand its limitations! A good plumber is happy to stand behind his warranty. Good plumbers use quality materials and know their level of expertise. If a plumber will not offer a warranty this is a problem in my mind.

How to Hire a Plumber

Think about the last time you purchased a car. Chances are you didn't go to the yellow pages, choose a dealership at random, and buy your car from the first lot you visited. Many times, though, this scenario describes the way homeowners find a plumber -- they look in the phone book and call the plumber with the largest ad or the first one listed. But much like purchasing a car, finding a qualified plumber requires research and comparison shopping.

Ask For a Quote

Invite plumbers to look at the job and ask for a quote in writing. In the quote also ask them to specify the time it will take to complete the job. Make sure the contractors are quoting on the same specifications.

Execute a Contract

Execute a contract specifying the work to be done, total cost, payment schedule, start date and estimated completion date. Make sure the contract includes the brands to be used in each location. Make sure the contract specifies that the plumber is responsible for cleanup and the removal of old materials and scraps.

3 Things to Look For in a Qualified Plumber

There are a number of qualifications that can set a professional plumber apart.

- Insurance -- Be sure that the prospective plumber you are considering is fully insured, having

both workers' compensation and liability insurance. Your selected plumber should be able to provide you with a copy of his or her insurance policy.

- Better Business Bureau -- Contact your local Better Business Bureau to ascertain if any complaints have been filed against your potential candidate.
- Use Angies List www.AngiesList.com to see what others have to say about this person. If a plumber has good reviews on Angies List then it is a good bet they will do good work for you too.

Safety Commitment

Accidents can happen with almost any home improvement project. So ask your prospective candidate what steps he or she will take to prevent injuries and property damage. Again if a plumber is good at his work he or she will be able to answer this question with ease.

Clean Up

Ask the plumber how he or she intends to leave the work area once the job is completed. You don't want to be cleaning up after a plumber for hours after they've left your home.

TIPS

- * Small business plumbers will be much more affordable because their overhead is lower.
- * If it's a big job, ask a number of plumbers and discard the cheapest and most expensive options. The cheapest will have underestimated and will sting you for it later and the most expensive doesn't really want your business, probably because they have work up to their eyeballs already.