

# How to vet a prospect contractor for your project



# Before Hiring a Contractor

## 1. Research

1. [Use the contractor verification tool](#) to make sure your contractor meets state requirements:
  1. Verify the contractor has an active license.
  2. Ensure the contractor is bonded and insured for damages that may occur.
  3. Check that they maintain a safe job site or have corrected any violations.
  4. Review a contractor's license history for previous lawsuits or license violations.
  5. [Watch: Verify a Contractor for Consumers](#)
2. [Hire Smart](#) – use our step-by-step guide to walk you through the contracting process.
3. [ProtectMyHome](#) – get some helpful tips for home improvement projects.

## 2. Plan ahead

1. Get at least 3 written bids and compare them carefully.

## 3. Be smart

1. Get references and stay alert for scams.
2. Get a written contract, and make sure you understand the terms.

## 4. Protect yourself

1. Consider requesting a performance bond for larger projects.

Source: <https://lni.wa.gov/licensing-permits/contractors/hiring-a-contractor/>