HOMEOWNER RESOURCE GUIDE 3

Questions to Ask Before Hiring a Roofing Contractor

A practical interview checklist and side-by-side estimate comparison worksheet.

Presented by the Roofing Contractors Association of Southern California | Serving the Industry Since 1936

Bring this checklist to every contractor interview. Asking the same questions helps you compare qualifications, proposed systems, services, and prices on an equal basis.

1 | Qualifications and experience

- ☐ What is your CSLB license number, and what license classification applies to this work?
- ☐ How long have you and your company been in the roofing business?
- ☐ Do you have a business address and recent local references or photos of similar jobs?
- ☐ What insurance coverage do you carry? How can I verify it?
- ☐ Do your installers have training or manufacturer certifications for the proposed system?
- ☐ Will you use subcontractors, and how will their qualifications and insurance be verified?

2 | Materials and recommendations

- ☐ Which roofing systems do you recommend for my roof and why?
- ☐ What are the tradeoffs in cost, durability, appearance, maintenance, and energy performance?
- ☐ Are there local building, fire-rating, HOA, or roof-structure restrictions on my choices?
- ☐ What material and workmanship warranties are included, and what do they exclude?

3 | Installation and project management

- ☐ Will the existing roof be removed? What decking, flashing, vents, and other components are included?
- ☐ Who will supervise the crew and be my day-to-day contact?
- ☐ What is the projected start date, duration, and work schedule?
- ☐ How will you protect the home if rain or delays occur, including overnight?
- ☐ Who obtains required permits and schedules inspections?
- ☐ How will you protect landscaping, driveways, gates, and other property?
- ☐ What daily and final cleanup is included?

4 | Costs, changes, and completion

- ☐ What is included and excluded in the written bid?
- ☐ What are the unit prices or process for unexpected decking or structural repairs?
- ☐ Will you obtain written approval before additional work or cost changes?
- ☐ What payment schedule is proposed, consistent with California requirements?
- ☐ What maintenance will the roof need?
- ☐ What warranty documents, inspection records, and applicable lien releases will I receive?

Roofing contractor comparison worksheet

Use the same criteria for each contractor. Record details on a separate sheet if more space is needed.

Comparison item	Contractor A	Contractor B	Contractor C
Company / contact	_____	_____	_____
CSLB license verified	_____	_____	_____
Insurance confirmed	_____	_____	_____
System / materials	_____	_____	_____
Tear-off / decking scope	_____	_____	_____
Flashing / ventilation	_____	_____	_____
Workmanship warranty	_____	_____	_____
Material warranty	_____	_____	_____
Permit responsibility	_____	_____	_____
Cleanup / disposal	_____	_____	_____
Estimated timeline	_____	_____	_____
Written total price	_____	_____	_____

Notes and follow-up questions

_____

_____

_____

_____

Reminder: verify license information directly with the CSLB, read the full written contract, and compare the proposed work rather than choosing by price alone.

Find a roofing professional

Explore the RCASoCal member directory at www.rcasocal.org. Verify California contractor license status and related records independently at www.cslb.ca.gov.

Important note

This guide provides general educational information, not legal, engineering, or warranty advice. RCASoCal provides a directory of association members but does not guarantee, warrant, or represent any contractor or their workmanship. Membership is not a substitute for independently verifying qualifications, insurance, references, and license status. Requirements vary by project and jurisdiction.