



Do Your Homework

- Ask to see state licenses for electrical, heating and cooling, and plumbing projects.
- Call the Building Department at 216-635-4203 for past projects they may have completed within the city
- Check your local Better Business Bureau ratings
- Get references from previous clients and ask to see some of their finished and in-progress jobs
- A good contractor will gladly provide a list of past clients
- Check local court records. Use this site to check local records:
<https://cpdocket.cp.cuyahogacounty.us/tos.aspx>

Get Everything in Writing

- Never enter into verbal agreements
- Make sure you understand and accept all of the terms in writing
- Read the agreement and verify it includes all items discussed in project
- Small changes need to be documented so both you and contractor are on the same page

Red Flags

- Cash only contracts or deals
- No references or refusal to share references
- Full or high upfront payments
- Not pulling proper permits with local municipality(s)
- Only accepting a verbal contract
- No insurance or not bonded
- Multiple company name changes
- High pressure tactics