

Bathroom Contractor Red-Flag Checklist

A Simple Guide to Help You Compare Bathroom Remodeling Contractors With Confidence

Bring this checklist with you to contractor appointments.

Use it to compare answers, ask better questions, and avoid common bathroom remodeling surprises.

Project Type (check one):

- ☐ Shower Remodel
- ☐ Tub-to-Shower Conversion
- ☐ Wet-Area Remodel
- ☐ Full Bathroom Remodel
- ☐ Safety & Accessibility Update

Contractor Name: _____

Estimate Date: _____

Bathroom Contractor Red Flags Checklist

1. Clear Scope & Written Quote

Can they clearly explain what is included in the project?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ Somewhat
- ☐ No

Questions to Ask

- ☐ What exactly is included?
- ☐ What is excluded?
- ☐ Are materials selected and documented?
- ☐ What decisions still need approval?
- ☐ What could affect pricing later?

Watch For Red Flags

- ☐ Vague language
- ☐ Missing details

- ☐ Confusing quote
- ☐ You leave unsure what you are paying for

Notes:

2. Pressure or Pushy Sales Tactics

Do you feel informed or pressured?

- ☐ I feel informed
- ☐ Some pressure
- ☐ High pressure

Questions to Ask Yourself

- ☐ Do I understand the project?
- ☐ Have my questions been answered?
- ☐ Am I being rushed to decide?
- ☐ Would I feel comfortable sleeping on this decision?

Watch For Red Flags

- ☐ "Today only" pressure
- ☐ Feeling rushed
- ☐ Guilt or urgency tactics
- ☐ Little time for questions

Notes:

3. Hidden Damage Process

Can they explain what happens if something unexpected is found?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ Somewhat
- ☐ No

Questions to Ask

- ☐ What happens if water damage is found?
- ☐ What if the floor is soft?
- ☐ How are surprises documented?
- ☐ Do I approve additional work first?
- ☐ How are timeline changes communicated?

Watch For Red Flags

- ☐ “Don’t worry about it” answers
- ☐ No process explained
- ☐ Vague change-order conversations

Notes:

4. Waterproofing & Build Quality

Can they explain how the shower is built behind the walls?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ Somewhat
- ☐ No

Questions to Ask

- ☐ How is the shower waterproofed?
- ☐ What is behind the wall system?
- ☐ How does drainage work?
- ☐ What materials are being used?
- ☐ Why do you recommend this system?

Watch For Red Flags

- ☐ Focus only on appearance
- ☐ Confusing explanations
- ☐ Cannot explain waterproofing
- ☐ Avoids technical questions entirely

Notes:

5. Timeline & Working Shower Expectations

Can they clearly explain timing?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ Somewhat
- ☐ No

Questions to Ask

- ☐ What is the timeline?
- ☐ What could affect timing?
- ☐ When should the shower be usable again?
- ☐ How are delays communicated?
- ☐ Who updates me during the project?

Watch For Red Flags

- ☐ No timeline clarity
- ☐ "It depends" without explanation
- ☐ No usable-shower expectation

Notes:

6. Warranty & Service Support

Do you understand what happens after installation?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ Somewhat
- ☐ No

Questions to Ask

- ☐ What does the warranty cover?
- ☐ Who handles service?
- ☐ Is the support local?
- ☐ Are there limitations I should understand?

Watch For Red Flags

- ☐ Confusing warranty language
- ☐ Vague promises
- ☐ No clear service path

Notes:

7. Reviews, Local Proof & Project Examples

Can they show proof of work similar to yours?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ Somewhat
- ☐ No

Questions to Ask

- ☐ Can I see projects like mine?
- ☐ Are there reviews I can read?
- ☐ Have you completed this type of remodel before?
- ☐ Do homeowners mention communication and professionalism?

Watch For Red Flags

- ☐ Very little proof
- ☐ Few relevant reviews
- ☐ No project examples
- ☐ Reluctance to show past work

Notes:

8. Payment Clarity

Do payment expectations feel clear?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ Somewhat
- ☐ No

Questions to Ask

- ☐ How do payments work?
- ☐ When are payments expected?

- ☐ How are project changes approved?
- ☐ How are added costs documented?

Watch For Red Flags

- ☐ Confusing payment conversations
- ☐ Vague expectations
- ☐ No written clarity
- ☐ Pressure to move quickly

Notes:

Quick Contractor Comparison Scorecard

Category	Contractor 1	Contractor 2	Contractor 3
Clear Scope	☐	☐	☐
No Pressure	☐	☐	☐
Hidden Damage Process	☐	☐	☐
Waterproofing Confidence	☐	☐	☐
Timeline Clarity	☐	☐	☐
Warranty Clarity	☐	☐	☐
Proof & Reviews	☐	☐	☐
Payment Clarity	☐	☐	☐

Before You Say Yes, Ask Yourself:

- ☐ Do I feel informed?
- ☐ Do I understand the project scope?
- ☐ Were questions answered clearly?
- ☐ Do I trust the communication?
- ☐ Do I understand timeline expectations?
- ☐ Would I feel comfortable moving forward?

Final Reminder

A good bathroom remodeling contractor should make you feel informed, respected, and confident, not rushed or confused.

The goal is not perfection. The goal is clarity.

Better questions today can help prevent remodeling surprises tomorrow.