

Checklist for Construction Projects

Congratulations: You've made the decision make some hardscape improvements at your home or business. For everyone's protection, we have written down some information and guidelines for you as the owner to use as a checklist. Bear in mind these are merely suggestions and should not in all circumstances be used to qualify a contractor or installer. Remember that there is no substitute for experience and expertise.

- Request a copy of a Contractor's License or Business License – Smaller projects may not require any sort of license depending on your area and governing municipality.
- Request a copy of contractor's insurance – This could allow you to be protected should anything go wrong with the installation or if an accident or damages occur as a result of said installation.
- Don't be afraid to ask for references. A good contractor will be more than happy to provide examples of the quality of their work.
- How long has the contractor been in business under the current name?
- Have a clear understanding with your contractor what is to be done, the cost, and put it in writing. Signatures to this agreement will protect both parties.
- Make sure you know the physical address of the business / contractor.
- Request lien waivers for all products used on the jobsite by the contractor. Proof of payment will work as well. Remember, if a contractor purchases a product on credit from a company, this company still owns the product until the contractor pays for it. This leaves you liable for the product even if you have paid the contractor in full. In a lot of cases, the contractor may have as much as 30 days in which to pay for the product so an immediate release of lien may not be available.