

## HOW TO LOCATE & SELECT A QUALIFIED CONTRACTOR

Here are some tips on finding the best contractor for your project:

**Collect** as many referrals and recommendations as you can from friends, neighbors, and reputable internet services.

**Contact** all of the contractors who interest you. Keep in mind that good contractors often schedule work well in advance, so you may have to contact several to find someone available when you need them. **Those who don't return your call or email within a day or two should probably be eliminated from consideration. One sign of a qualified contractor is that they are accessible.**

**Conduct** a thorough interview with each of your prospective contractors. Find out how long they have been in business and when they might be available for your project. Pay attention to the questions they ask you and how interested they seem in helping you realize your benefits and results. **Make sure they have a license, along with Liability insurance and Workers Compensation insurance (if they have employees).** If you want to verify the contractor's past performance then obtain some of their Customer Reviews, then ask the homeowners questions.

**Check** the references you've collected from your interviews. Find out if the contractor adhered to the promised budget and schedule. Ask the homeowners if they were happy with the contractor's performance and would they hire this person again. **Also contact the Contractors State License Board: [www.cslb.ca.gov](http://www.cslb.ca.gov) to verify the contractor's license record, etc. Also the contractor's rating with the local Better Business Bureau: <http://www.bbb.org/northeast-california>**

**Call** for bids or estimates from two or three contractors you feel comfortable with. Bids should include all estimated costs, a schedule and any other required fees. Be suspicious of any contractor who offers to do the same work as others for considerably less money.

**Note: Have a clear idea and visual of your project.** Make sure the agreement spells out all costs and details of the project, and that you understand it thoroughly before signing.

***If you are happy with your finished project you should let others know!***