



Top 10 Questions to Compare Home Performance Contractors

The Building Performance Institute, Inc. (BPI) recommends that you carefully compare contractors before selecting one to help you with any home improvement project. A qualified home performance contractor will:

- Help you solve problems in your home such as comfort, indoor air quality, moisture, and combustion safety, and will help you reduce energy bills.
- Use technologically advanced tools to diagnose your home before making suggestions for improvements.

Compare Home Improvement Contractors	Company 1	Company 2	Company 3
NAME OF COMPANY			
1. Is your company a BPI GoldStar Contractor participating in the BPI Quality Assurance Program?			
2. What BPI certifications or other national technical training do the technicians hold who may be working on my home?			
3. Are you a participating contractor in (insert Program Name)?			
4. Are you familiar with rebates or other incentives that are available from federal and state government, and my utility? Will you help me with the application paperwork?			
5. Do you offer financing?			
6. Will your evaluation cover:			
• Energy Use			
• Comfort			
• Indoor Air Quality			
• Combustion Safety			
• Special Health Concerns (such as moisture, allergies, lead, etc.)			
7. What diagnostic equipment will you use to evaluate how my home performs before and after making any home improvements?			
• Blower Door			
• Duct Pressure Test			
• Combustion Analyzer			
• Thermal Imaging Camera (Infrared Gun)			
8. Will your Home Assessment Report Include:			
• Assessment of all home systems?			
• Prioritized list of improvements?			
• Estimated costs to do the improvements?			
• Estimated energy savings from improvements?			
• Energy rating or other computerized energy analysis?			
9. How long will it take for you to perform the comprehensive home assessment and prepare the written report and improvement recommendations?			
10. Is your company working responsibly?			
• Do you have a contractor's license with the state, county, or city?			
• Do you have all required insurance?			
• Will you pull all the proper permits to perform the work you recommend?			
• May I have references of people with homes similar to mine that you have improved?			

This comparison form is intended to provide assistance in choosing a reputable contractor, and additional questions may be necessary before making a final selection.

A qualified home performance contractor can help you:

- Reduce your energy costs
- Improve the health and safety of your home
- Increase your personal comfort
- Extend the longevity of your building and appliances
- Lower your carbon footprint

Now that you've selected a contractor, what should you expect as the next steps?

Step 1: Have a Comprehensive Home Energy Assessment.

Step 2: Be sure you are present during the on-site inspection.

Step 3: Review the Recommendations and Improvements Report with your home performance contractor. Ask for a thorough explanation when you receive the written report or bid, and make sure you understand the basis for every recommendation for improvement.

Step 4: Discuss financing options if necessary.

Step 5: Contractor will obtain necessary permits and install improvements.

Step 6: Contractor will test the house at the completion of the project (also referred to as 'Test Out') to ensure that everything is working properly.

Step 7: Submit appropriate utility rebate and tax credit forms (consult with your tax specialist).

Step 8: Enjoy improved comfort, reduced maintenance, and energy savings for the life of your home.

ADDITIONAL REFERENCES

- www.bpi.org
- <http://www.bpi.org/goldstar>
- http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?fuseaction=hpwes_profiles.showSplash
- <http://www.dsireusa.org/>