

6 QUESTIONS to Ask Your Remodeling Contractor



by **J.D. Burkholder**
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Affordable Bathrooms and Kitchens

Affordable Bathrooms and Kitchens is a partner company with Burkholder Customs who provides complete kitchen or bathroom packages—quality packages at a reasonable price. Bathroom packages in a week. Kitchen packages in 2 weeks. Guaranteed!

For custom work, Burkholder Customs can offer you a variety of options from complete home remodeling including custom design for your kitchen, bathroom and basement. From design to completion, we'll manage your custom transformation to ensure it is done right. Not sure what kind of new style you want? Let us walk you through the process. We'll help you find the right look and feel that fits your lifestyle.

With AB&K and Burkholder Customs you get personal service and quality results, but also peace of mind.

What our clients are saying...

We are extremely pleased with the results of our bathroom renovation. It had been a challenge for us to find a contractor to work on a small 1950's era bath and ABK was the answer to our prayers. It was done on time, the workers were meticulous in keeping our home clean throughout the process and it was on budget, just as we were told. —Don and Peg P.

Thanks for making our dream kitchen into reality. I could not imagine our kitchen looking any better. If you are questioning the cost to renovate your kitchen, don't question any longer. —Melissa F.

When Steve and I decided to remodel our bathroom choosing the right person for the job was our first and biggest challenge. But after speaking with several remodelers, we knew J.D. was the right person for us. His organization and detailed scheduling kept us informed every step of the way. His workmen were professional, polite, and very skilled craftsmen They even suggested ideas we had not thought of. The finished result was beyond our expectations. Our newly remodeled bathroom is beautiful and a pleasure to walk into. —Steve and Robyn F.

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how to avoid stress while saving time & money

You are finally ready to do that remodeling project you have wanted to do. How do you ensure that you aren't wasting time and money? Two common causes of stress and problems are poor communication and incorrect expectations. The better you communicate with your contractor and the better you both understand each other's expectation, the easier time you will have with your project. To help you we've assembled a list of questions that you can ask your contractor to be on the same page.

How much will this cost?

Seems simple enough but many people take for granted changes or delays

and how they affect the cost. If they don't have this material, how much will it cost to replace it with the new choice? Will delaying the project till after the first of the year cause the cost to go up? Does the contractor have a system in place to stay on budget? Do they guarantee their price? What happens if it goes over budget?

Who is my point of contact?

The person who signed the contract with you may not be the person you are dealing with during the project. Who will that person be? What is their cell phone and email? When can I get in touch with them?

What happens if something goes wrong?

Delays in getting materials you want, holidays, weather and many other things can affect the time it takes to do a project. Do you have key dates that you need to share with the people doing your work? Will they be able to have the project done by Thanksgiving or by your daughter's graduation? How does your contractor deal with these delays?

Most experienced contractors will have a system to deal with delays and key dates. These systems not only provide parameters for everyone dealing with the project to keep them on schedule but also should have margin built in for

problems that may come up during the work.

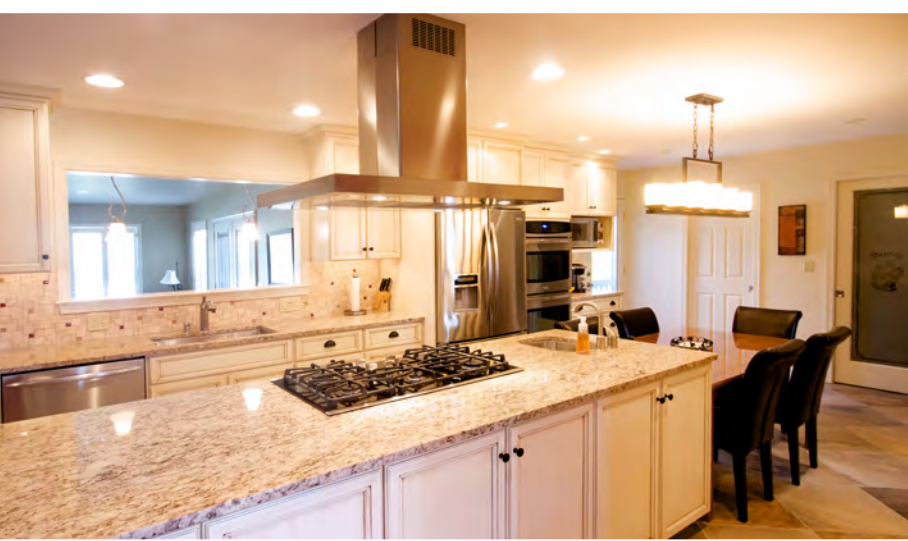
Can I see your work?

Most contractors like to showcase their work and will have it available on a website or pictures. Some will even have samples of products to show you so you can touch and feel.

Can I contact your existing clients?

Who have you done work for? Can you provide us with names of past





clients that we can choose to contact? This is a great tool that few people use. Hearing someone else discuss their project and dealing with the people that you are looking to work with can alleviate a lot of stress. Don't be afraid of calling people as most will be happy to talk about their remodeling job and just as quick to warn you as well.

How long will this take?

From the starting date to the ending date and other key dates in between, asking this question may sound simplistic but you will want to know how long it will take for each phase. Make sure that you discuss when you need to have all material picked out that you may be selecting.

The bottom line to all the questions is if you don't ask you may not find out. By taking the time to ask these questions, you can alleviate a lot of stress, wasted time and money. It may sound simplistic but it is better to ask and know than just hope they will do what you are expecting. Here's to your successful remodeling project.

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