

## Tips for Hiring a Remodeling Contractor

- 1 Get at least three written estimates.
- 2 Get references and call to check on the work. If possible, go by and visit earlier jobs.
- 3 Check with the local Chamber of Commerce or Better Business Bureau for complaints.
- 4 Be sure that the contract states exactly what is to be done and how change orders will be handled.
- 5 Make as small a down payment as possible so you won't lose a lot if the contractor fails to complete the job.
- 6 Be sure that the contractor has the necessary permits, licenses, and insurance.
- 7 Be sure that the contract states when the work will be completed and what recourse you have if it isn't. Also remember that in many instances you can cancel a contract within three business days of signing it.
- 8 Ask if the contractor's workers will do the entire job or whether subcontractors will do parts.
- 9 Get the contractor to indemnify you if work does not meet any local building codes or regulations.
- 10 Be sure that the contract specifies the contractor will clean up after the job and be responsible for any damage.
- 11 Guarantee that materials used meet your specifications.
- 12 Don't make the final payment until you're satisfied with the work.