

“Permit Us...”

Contracting with a Contractor Get estimates! Get them in writing!

This tip for residents of Sayre Borough deals with estimates.

Not only do we recommend that you get more than one estimate on the work you would like to have done, we also suggest the following:

1) Get all estimates and the actual contract in writing. You should not have to pay for a contractor to come to your property and provide a written estimate of the job. We have many contractors in the area who are extremely honest and their word is good, but just to be on the safe side...get it in writing.

2) The estimate and final contract should include not only the contractor state registration # in writing:

- a) What work is to be done
- b) Who supplies the materials?
- c) Costs of materials
- d) Labor costs
- e) How these costs are to be paid, (many times a contractor will ask for a percentage of the total costs to be paid at the time the contract has been signed so that they can buy materials. (State mandate is 1/3 down, 1/3 half way through and 1/3 upon successful completion of the project.)
- f) Who is responsible for obtaining a building permit if one is necessary?
- g) Who is responsible for contacting the Code Office when ready for required inspections?
- h) Who is responsible for removing any debris created by the project?
- i) The projects start date and anticipated project completion date.

Weather plays a major factor in many project completion dates, so please understand the contractor's situation if weather has influenced this date.

You may want to include in the contract what happens if the project has not been completed after a reasonable time beyond the completion date.

JUST REMEMBER:

- **GET MORE THAN ONE ESTIMATE –**
- **GET THE ESTIMATE AND THE CONTRACT IN WRITING!**
- **PLEASE BE CAUTIOUS OF CASH DEALS –**
- **ALWAYS GET A WRITTEN RECEIPT WHEN PAYING CASH –**

Many experienced and reliable contractors work in our community – highly skilled professionals who do business the right way. This series of articles is to assist you with your decision.

“Permit Us...” is brought to you by the Sayre Code Agency 570-888-4410