



## **Kitchen Renovation Contractor Hiring Checklist: Ontario, Canada**

### **1. Initial Considerations:**

- Define your renovation goals: What do you want to achieve with the renovation?
- Set a budget: How much are you willing to spend, including a contingency for unexpected costs?

### **2. Research & Recommendations:**

- Ask friends, family, and colleagues for contractor recommendations.
- Search online for contractors in Ontario with good reviews.
- Check local home renovation stores or showrooms; they might have recommendation boards.

### **3. License & Certification:**

- Ensure the contractor is licensed with the relevant local Ontario regulatory bodies.
- Check for any certifications that might attest to their expertise.

### **4. Insurance & Liability:**

- The contractor should have liability insurance to protect your home from any damages.
- Workers' compensation insurance is crucial in case a worker is injured on your property.

### **5. Experience & Portfolio:**

- How long have they been in the kitchen renovation business?
- Request to see a portfolio of their previous work.
- Ideally, see a project in person or speak to previous clients for feedback.

### **6. Detailed Quote:**

- Request a detailed, written quote. This should include labor, materials, and any other anticipated costs.
- Ensure any potential additional costs or unforeseen circumstances are clarified.

### **7. Contract Review:**

- A well-defined contract should outline the scope of work, payment schedule, completion date, and any warranty information.
- It's a good idea to have the contract reviewed by a legal professional.

### **8. Permits & Regulations:**

- Ask the contractor about any necessary permits for the renovation.
- Ensure the contractor is familiar with Ontario building codes and local regulations.

#### 9. Payment Schedule & Terms:

- Agree on a payment schedule. A common practice is a down payment followed by progress payments, with a final payment upon completion.
- Be wary of contractors asking for a significant portion or full payment upfront.

#### 10. Start & Completion Dates:

- Establish a clear timeline for when the renovation will begin and end.

#### 11. Warranty & Service:

- Ask about warranties on both materials and labor.
- Understand the process for addressing any issues after the renovation is complete.

#### 12. Clean-up & Waste Management:

- Discuss how waste will be disposed of and who is responsible.
- Ensure the contractor commits to leaving the work site clean at the end of each day and upon project completion.

#### 13. Communication:

- Establish a clear line of communication for any questions or concerns.
- Decide on regular check-ins or updates.

#### 14. Safety & Security:

- Discuss any necessary safety precautions, especially if you're living in the home during the renovation.
- Ask about the security of your home if the contractor needs access during times you're not home.

#### 15. References:

- Request and check at least 2-3 references. Ask about the quality of work, communication, timeliness, and overall satisfaction.

#### 16. Additional Credentials:

- For added confidence, check if the contractor is a member of relevant associations like the Ontario Home Builders' Association or the Canadian Home Builders' Association.

Once you have thoroughly evaluated your options, make an informed decision. Renovations can be stressful, but with the right contractor, the process can be much smoother.

Call if you have any questions: 416-769-288