# CHECKLIST OF QUESTIONS TO ASK ROOFING CONTRACTORS

1. **Are you licensed, bonded, and insured? Can I have a copy, please?**
   Every roofing contractor should be licensed, bonded, and insured. Don't be afraid to ask for copies so you can see the paperwork yourself.

2. **What shingle manufacturers do you use and are you certified by them? Can you show me your certifications?**
   The top shingle manufacturers select a group of contractors in a given area to get certified and sell their roof systems. When a roofing contractor is certified, the manufacturer trusts them to install your roof properly and allows them to offer you the enhanced warranty.

3. **What is your workmanship warranty? Will you provide that to me in writing?**
   A reputable roofing contractor stands behind their workmanship. Every roofing contractor should offer a warranty on their craftsmanship. Don't just take their word for it, ask to have it in writing.

4. **How long have you been in business?**
   When you get a new roof, you want the contractor to still be around if there's ever a problem. If a contractor has been in business for 20 years, you know they're going to be there for any problems that come up.

5. **If I have a problem can I talk to the owner? Can I have their name and number, please?**
   If a problem pops up, you want to make sure that problem is going to be taken care of. If you can contact the owner directly, you know your problem was heard at the very top.

6. **Is your business local?**
   You must hire a local roofing contractor so you can find them if you have a problem. You should ensure they have an actual physical office space.

7. **Have you worked in this neighborhood? Can you provide me with a list of names and addresses, please?**
   Remember, every roofing contractor should be proud of their workmanship. They shouldn't be afraid to hand over a list of references of happy customers. Ask for names and even for addresses.

8. **Do you hand nail or do you use air guns?**
   Ask your contractor what installation method they prefer to use. If they use air guns, ask them how they manage the pressure on the air guns to ensure your roof is properly installed.

9. **Do you use drip edge?**
   Drip edge **must** be installed per code on your roof. It can cause your home to fail an inspection if it's not installed.

10. **Do you use ice and water shield? If so, where do you use it?**
    Ice and water shield needs to be installed in your roof valleys and around roof penetrations. Ask if they use it and where they install it.

11. **Do you replace the existing flashing or do you reuse it?**
    When your roof is replaced, your flashing may or may not be replaced. As long as the metal's integrity is holding strong then they can reuse it. But, if you're upgrading shingles, then your flashing will need to be replaced.

12. **What are your procedures for protecting my landscaping, pool, gutters?**
    When you have roof work done, it's crucial to know what steps a contractor takes to protect your home and lawn. Ask them to walk you through the process they take to protect your property when they replace your roof.

13. **What is your cleanup process? Do you use a magnet?**
    After your roof replacement, your yard, driveway, and landscaping should be clear of any nails or any other

roofing debris. They should also run a magnet over your yard and landscaping to find any nails that got away. Have the contractor walk you through their clean up process.

14. **How long will it take?**
Multiple factors go into how long it'll take. Ask the contractor how long it will take and what factors affect your timeline.

15. **What size is the crew that will be installing my new roof?**
The less traffic on your roof, the better. Ask how many people will be on your roof during the installation process.

16. **How long has the crew that will be installing my roof been with you?**
Trust is one of the most important aspects of hiring a roofing contractor. You also need to be able to trust the crew that's doing the installing as well. Ask the contractor how long their crews have been with them and any references from past jobs they've worked on.