

Checklist: 9 Important Questions to Ask Before Hiring a Plumber

Blog: 6 Things to Know When Hiring a Covington Plumbing Company for Garbage Disposal Installation

Whether you need garbage disposal repair or have an overflowing toilet, a local plumber should be the first person you call. But, with so many plumbers in the phonebook, how will you know which one is right for you? Asking these 9 questions will ensure you hire a skilled, honest plumber who can handle any situation with your plumbing system:

1. **How long have you been in business?** While it's not imperative that you find a plumber who's been around since the Stone Age, you also don't want to work with someone who started yesterday.
2. **Have you done this before?** If the answer is no, try to locate another plumber who has more experience. Something like installing a new garbage disposal may seem like a simple project, but you don't want your kitchen sink to be the test guinea pig.
3. **Do you provide an estimate? And how?** One of the worst mistakes is hiring a plumber without getting a ballpark figure for the job. At the same time, you should be suspicious of plumbers who can give you a quote for a big project over the phone. Unless you're calling for a routine repair, the plumber should only provide a quote after seeing the problem first-hand.
4. **Do you guarantee your work?** Run away as fast as you can if a plumber refuses to offer a guarantee on the services they provide. You want to work with a company that stands behind everything they do and will make every effort to keep you satisfied.
5. **What type of warranty do you offer on your products?** It doesn't matter if you spend thousands on a new water heater or a few dollars on a replacement toilet handle, you want to know it will last. Make sure the plumber can provide you with a written warranty for any products you purchase from them.
6. **What if you have a plumbing emergency?** You need to know who to call if a pipe bursts at 2 am. Know in advance if the plumber offers 24-hour emergency service.
7. **Do you have any references?** A plumber should be eager to show you glowing reviews of their services. They should also let you know if they frequently repair in your neighborhood.
8. **Do you have a license to work?** By law, all plumbers must obtain a license to operate in the state. If they claim to have a license, ask for their identification number. You can always call local officials to verify the validity of their license.
9. **Are you insured?** Liability insurance covers the plumber if they hurt themselves on the job. Without insurance, the plumber may try to sue you for their injuries. Never work with a plumber who cannot provide you with proof of insurance. Check the expiration date of the policy to make sure the plumber has current coverage.