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## What to Know Before Hiring a Landscaper

Dreaming of transforming your suburban abode into a picturesque haven?

Achieving suburb curb appeal requires time, effort, and meticulous planning, but the results are undoubtedly worth it. While rolling up your sleeves and tackling the landscaping yourself is an option, sometimes it's best to enlist the help of a professional landscaper to bring your vision to life. But with so many options available, how do you know which landscaper is the right fit for your project?

### Finding the Perfect Landscaper:

Here are **9 essential questions** to ask your prospective landscaper before making your decision:



1. **Range of Services:** What services do you offer, and what are your areas of expertise? Do they know irrigation? Are they a licensed designer? **Do they know plants and how to plant them properly, and then how to water them properly?** This is a big one and believe us when we tell you...this is an area many landscapers are lacking in education and it can cost you dearly.
2. **Cost Estimates:** What are the estimated costs associated with my project? Transparency regarding pricing ensures there are no surprises down the line. If the initial quote exceeds your budget, inquire about potential adjustments or alternative solutions to align with your financial constraints.
3. **Plant Sourcing:** Where do you source your shrubs, plants, and trees from? Opting for locally sourced vegetation not only promotes environmental sustainability but also ensures better adaptability and growth in your garden.
4. **Maintenance Plans:** Will you provide ongoing maintenance services? Clarifying the maintenance aspect upfront helps set clear expectations and ensures your landscape remains in pristine condition post-installation. Besides, if they are maintaining it for you, they will take more care to install it from the beginning.
5. **Vision Alignment:** Can you bring my vision to life? A competent landscaper should take the time to understand your aesthetic preferences, budgetary constraints, and maintenance preferences to deliver results that align with your vision.
6. **Project Timeline:** What is the projected timeline for completion, taking into account potential delays? While unforeseen circumstances may arise, having a rough timeline allows you to plan accordingly and anticipate project milestones.
7. **Plant Maturity:** How long will it take for the planted vegetation to reach maturity? Understanding the growth trajectory of your plants enables you to visualize the long-term evolution of your landscape and temper your expectations of what it will look like in year one.

8. **Communication Channels:** Who should I contact in case of questions or concerns during the project? Clear communication channels are essential for addressing any issues promptly and ensuring a smooth project execution.
9. **Additional Services:** Do you offer hardscaping and lighting installations? If you envision incorporating additional features into your landscape design, ensure your chosen landscaper offers comprehensive services to bring your vision to fruition.

### **Identifying Landscape Company Red Flags:**

While embarking on a landscaping project is an exciting endeavor, it's crucial to remain vigilant for potential red flags that may indicate subpar service or unprofessional conduct. Keep an eye out for warning signs such as poorly drafted contracts, absence of licensure and insurance, unrealistically low pricing, excessive upfront deposits (over 50%), ambiguous deadlines, lack of online presence, and communication gaps.

### **Final Thoughts:**

Embarking on a landscaping journey holds the promise of transforming your home's exterior into a captivating oasis. By asking the right questions and heeding potential red flags, you can navigate the landscape of hiring a landscaper with confidence. Effective communication and transparency are key to fostering a successful partnership with your chosen landscaper, ensuring your vision is realized to perfection.

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