



**City of Lapeer**  
**Building Department**  
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## **BUILDING DEPARTMENT FAQs**

How do I hire a contractor?

Building or updating a home is a major investment. The following are a few helpful tips to ensure you get the most for your money:

### **Choosing a Contractor**

As you get ready to choose a contractor, it is important that you research the contractor to verify that they are licensed with the State of Michigan and whether other homeowners have had difficulty with this contractor.

To verify Contractor License: Call the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA) at 517-373-1820 or visit their website at

<https://www.michigan.gov/lara/0,4601,7-154-89512---,00.html?page=1&limit=10&filterCategories=&searchQuery=>

To investigate a Complaint History: Contact the Bureau of Professional Licensing Investigations & Inspection Division, Complaint Intake Section P.O. Box 30670, Lansing MI 48909, Telephone: 517-373-9196 Fax 517-241-2389

[https://www.michigan.gov/lara/0,4601,7-154-89334\\_72600---,00.html](https://www.michigan.gov/lara/0,4601,7-154-89334_72600---,00.html)

Any contractor who bids work that exceeds \$600 in labor and materials must be Licensed by the Department of Consumer and Industry Services. Working with an unlicensed contractor is not recommended and is done at your own risk. Permits are required for such work.

### **Get Estimates and References**

We recommend written estimates from the contractors you are considering. Make sure the estimate includes the total price, terms of payment, type of materials, and expected completion time. Be careful when considering a low bid with lower quality materials. This may not be cost effective in the long run. Considering all aspects of the bid is important and be sure to ask to verify their references.