



## ***Compare Your Project Estimates Apples To Apples, Don't Just Go With The Lowest Bid!***

***Building a new home, making a home addition or remodeling to get the living space you've always dreamed of? Now is the time to make sure you are getting exactly what you want with your financial investment. This is your one opportunity to pick the very best contractor for your project at the price that fits into your budget. The Springfield Area Home Builders Association recommends that you do your research, and compare project estimates, apples to apples! Level the playing field, by knowing exactly what is included, and not included.***

***Look for the differences line-by-line to find out why your construction estimates are priced different:***

- Contact contractors, and get at least three estimates in writing. A good idea is to have all the contractors use the same specific form to establish a line item breakdown. This will ensure you are getting consistent and accurate quotes.
- To avoid big cost overruns, make sure all of the estimates include your local building code requirements.
- Determine whether the contractor has the proper insurance. Make sure that they will be abiding by current building laws and regulations.
- Make sure you have detailed house or remodeling plans. For example; full scope of work to be completed, project timeline including start date, and completion date, specific materials to be used, clean up and disposal. This will help to eliminate hidden costs.
- Has the contractor included energy efficient options that may have increased costs initially but potentially can save you money in the long run?
- Is the contractor offering warranties on products and/or services?
- Ask as many questions as you need. There are NO unintelligent questions!

***With these simple tips, the process of evaluating home construction quotes and contractor bids will help to take the confusion, and uncertainty out of who to choose for your project.***



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