THE PROPERTY | SELLER

HOW TO

Hire a Remodeling Contractor

**Shop around for the right company.**

* Get at least three written estimates.
* Ask for and check references. If possible, look at jobs the contractor recently completed.
* Check with your local chamber of commerce or Better Business Bureau for complaints.
* Be sure that the contractor has the necessary licenses and insurance, as well as the ability to obtain permits.
* Ask if the contractor’s workers will do the entire job or whether subcontractors will be involved.

**Read the contract carefully.**

* Be sure the contract states exactly what is to be done and how change orders will be handled.
* Check that the contract states when the work will be completed and what recourse you have if it isn’t.
* Make sure the contract indemnifies you if work does not meet building codes or regulations.
* Be sure that the contract specifies who will clean up after the job and be responsible for any damage.
* Ensure that the materials meet your specifications.

**Seal the deal.**

* Remember that you can often cancel a contract within three business days of signing it.
* Make a small down payment so you won’t lose much if the contractor fails to complete the job.
* Don’t make the final payment until you’re satisfied with the work.