

6 Questions to Ask Your Landscape Designer

Choosing the right landscape designer and contractor is the best way to ensure your landscape project runs smoothly and look beautiful. It's relatively easy to start a business and call yourself a landscaper so be careful not to be swayed by the lowest bid. Ask the following key questions when choosing a landscape contractor:

Can you show me pictures?

Every professional landscape contractor will have a portfolio of past work. If you don't like the looks of their work, no sense going any further.

Can you provide references?

Find out if previous clients were happy with their end results. Did the design match their vision? Did the project stay within budget? Did the designer offer creative alternatives? Were the workers professional? Was the project completed on time?

How does the design process work?

A professional landscape contractor will start by asking you questions to guarantee the end result reflects your style and personality. If they start telling you what they'd do, watch out! You might end up with a generic looking landscape.

What's included?

Will they handle design, installation, irrigation, lawn, lighting, permits, and disposal? One stop shopping makes the process smoother.

Will you educate me?

Ask your landscaper how and why specific plants are chosen. If you're doing any type of hardscaping (patios, walks, decks, walls) ask about ground preparation, drainage plans, and material selection. A professional landscaper will take the time to offer clear explanations.

Do you have a written guarantee?

Construction work should be guaranteed, in writing, for two full years and specified plants should have a written one year warranty.