

## Choosing a Builder: Evaluation Checklist

Selecting a builder to build your dream home can be a challenging task. Not all builders approach building the same way. It can be very helpful to consider what is important to you in your relationship with a custom home builder and evaluate each builder against a common set of questions regarding the key phases of construction.

Mastroianni Construction is pleased to share with you a checklist—a resource to help you ask key questions of your prospective builders to assist you in making the best possible decision for you.

Try not to rush the process of selecting your home builder. Are you getting value for dollar? Inquire about the builders history and background prior to Is problem solving worked out in a timely fashion? building houses. How does the builder handle change orders? Change Does your home builder offer extended warranties, orders should be done in writing with an explanation and over and above the Ontario required "Tarion Warranty" pricing and schedule changes. (Mastroianni Warranty)? Do not make your decision until you feel comfortable about Inspect the quality of workmanship and materials through what you are doing? all phases on the building project and ask questions. How responsive and accessible is the builder? Ask if, allowances for revisions can be made to existing How many years has the builder been in business? building contracts? (for specific customer requirements). Will the builder offer in-house design expertise and how Are the builder's job sites clean, tidy and safe? well does the builder work with architects and designers? Ask about testimonials and a client list for reference. Will the builder visit the site to review the topography of Choose a builder that is a "hands-on builder" - these are the land and offer suggestions on plans, placement and the builders you really want building your home. other conditions? Inquire about the builder's prior experience (engineering, How does the builder select its sub-contractor team? Is it scheduling, construction). based on price or qualifications? What is the experience level of the builder's field How long has the builder worked with these subcontractors? operations? Who will be in control of the project, the builder or the sub-How long will it take the builder, on average, to complete a contractors? home? Faster is not always better. Ask if in-house inspections of all work is made, before Is it the builder's practice to meet the building code or to exceed them in the pursuit of quality? moving on to the next stage. Does the builder cater to customer needs and Can the builder provide you with a detailed specification list requirements? on how your home will be built? Ask about methods of construction to prevent call back Are your finishes builder grade or upgrade? Are your situations, what is done beneath the ground and behind the allowances generous or unrealistic? walls? Is the builder willing to schedule a post-completion walk-Does the builder advise customers to have their legal through after you have been in the home for a while to consultant review contracts before signing? ensure that your home is all that it should be?

How does the builder react to a possible "post-sale

challenge" that may not fall within the warranties?

Ask the builder lots of questions about all phases of the

construction process, a builder with integrity should be

proud to answer your questions.