

Why Do Business With an LABA Member?

“Here are 7 great reasons!”

1 A company that plans to line up jobs and then “take the money and run” will not take the time to join a builders association.

2 LABA makes certain that a prospective LABA member is a legitimate company. Companies with open tax warrants, insurance that is not current, or convictions for recent building related crimes will not be accepted as a LABA member.

3 LABA members must abide by the LABA bylaws and code of ethics.

4 LABA members must conduct themselves in a professional manner.

5 LABA has the legal rights to expel members who violate LABA bylaws and code of ethics.

6 LABA has an arbitration/mediation system in place if a dispute should arise between client and contractor.

7 LABA members receive access to:

- Industry and consumer trends
- New building technologies
- Innovative financing plans
- Changes in state and local building codes and ordinances
- Ongoing education that keeps LABA members qualified professionals
- Environmental regulations

8 Our members:

- Have high ethical and professional standards
- Are committed to providing consumers with excellent services
- Provide consumers with quality products
- Know the importance of excellent customer service



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How to Pick a Contractor

The Right Choice in a Contractor Makes All the Difference



This brochure is published by the
La Crosse Area Builders Association
in an effort to promote safety and awareness
More information @ www.labaonline.com

Choosing Your Builder or Remodeler

TIPS from the La Crosse Area Builders Association (LABA)

What to Look for in a Builder or a Remodeler

- Permanence
- They maintain a permanent mailing address, phone number & system for you to contact them.
- Liability insurance
- Ask for a certificate of insurance (proof they have insurance which also discloses their insurance limits).
- Relationships
- They maintain good relationships with their subcontractors.
- Good references
- Don't just ask for references, get the names of people whose projects they are working on right now. Call them for their feedback.
- Referrals
- Ask people who you know in the building industry what they've heard of a builder/remodeler.
- Get referrals from people who've worked with that builder (family, friends, etc.).
- Background Check
- Check court records for contractor fraud, open tax warrants & lawsuits in which they owe a lot of money to another party.
- Inspections
- Quality is what differentiates one builder from another
- Parade of Homes (Mid-August) is a great way to view their work

- Certification
- Make sure they're certified (in Wisconsin) or licensed (in Minnesota). They should provide you with their certification or license number.
- Experience
- Ask how many years they've been in business. What is their background?

Rely on Your Feelings & Expectations

- Comfort
- If you don't feel 100% comfortable and believe they understand your visions and desires, they are not the builder for you.
- Expectations
- If they let you down before you've even signed the contract (ex. timely response to inquiries), they are likely to continue letting you down.

Get Multiple Bids

- Comparison Shop
- Make sure when comparing them that you're getting the whole picture - ex. allowances are the same, materials are the same (ex. hollowcore doors vs. solid wood).

Do business with a member of the La Crosse Area Builders Association

- We carefully screen our members, including background checks (courts, years in business, insurance).
- We can help you mediate problems if they arise
- We can give you tips on how to work better with your builder (and vice versa).



When you start your next project, start it right. Search our member directory for professionals that we know are insured, certified, licensed & local. Many of our members have been with the association for years!

Find out how your La Crosse Area Builders Association can help you get the job done right the first time! Call us at 608-781-5242.