

Interview Questions To Ask Before Choosing A Custom Homebuilder

What kind of relationship do you want with your custom homebuilder? Productive and genial or difficult and stressful? Over the course of your custom homebuild you will make plans, overcome unforeseen challenges and hit homebuilding milestones with the builder you choose. To ensure the relationship is a positive one, communication is vital. When you sit down to interview a builder, ask these eight questions:

Are you able to provide a few references?

It's always a good idea to ask for — and check — references to get a good picture of the final home quality and a firsthand perspective of the building experience.

What is the estimate process and timeline?

Estimates should take a bit of time. Estimates based on square footage alone are not sufficient.

Are there any built-in budget allowances in the estimate?

Issues arise during a build. Ensuring there's an allowance can give you a budget cushion and prevent extra cost surprises later on.

How do you mitigate challenges in order to stay on schedule during the build?

Knowing a builder's timeline is important when designing a custom home. Talking to some references can help determine a builder's history of staying on schedule.

How closely do you work with the designer?

Making sure they work hand in hand will prevent miscommunications that can lead to tension, an extended timeline or extra costs.

Can you provide an example of a meeting schedule?

Find out when, where and how often a builder likes to meet, as well as who will be included in the meetings (architects, designers, builder, etc.).

What building materials do you use?

Whether it's subflooring, insulation, flashing or wiring, look for a builder who insists on top-quality products that will extend the stability and longevity of your new home.

Do you use AdvanTech® subflooring?

With today's heavy home furnishings and open floor plans, it's important to choose a high-quality subflooring material. Choose a builder who uses AdvanTech® subflooring.

