



Home Tips®



• CHRISTIAN BUILDING INSPECTORS, INC., 1003 STAR COURT, NORCROSS, GEORGIA 30093, (770) 925-8518 • NOVEMBER 1998 •

Q & A

How Do You Find A Qualified Builder Or Remodeler?

One of the most difficult tasks in construction today is finding someone qualified. Do you have any pointers on picking a builder or remodeler?

Your are right. This is a difficult task. Since there is no licensing required or requirements of any kind, your best bet is to find a professional who is a member of The National Association of Home Builders or The National Association of the Remodeling Industry. Both have certifications the professional may obtain.

The NAHB has three different designations for their members.

• **Certified Graduate Builder**

To earn a CGB certificate a builder must complete nine, six hour courses. To maintain the designation, a graduate must take one additional CGB course (6 hours) every year after the initial certificate date. The six hours also may be earned by taking approved state and local seminars, NAHB national seminars or college courses related to the building industry.

• **Graduate Master Builder**

The courses in this series are more advanced with in-depth instruction geared for experienced building professionals. To begin the GMB certificate program a participant must have one of the following: 1) a Certified Graduate Builder certificate or certified Graduate Remodeler (CGR) certification; or 2) successful completion of three CGB courses and have at least 10 years of building business experience. To earn a GMB certificate, a participant must a) complete five GMB courses or b) complete four GMB courses, plus two CGB/CGR courses (beyond those required for initial certification).

• **Certified Graduate Remodeler™**

This series of courses was designed by remodelers to help other remodelers raise their level of business performance. This program is sponsored by the NAHB Remodelers Council TM and courses are administered by Home Builders Institute. Candidates are required to take a specified number of courses

as determined by the score on their professional profile administered by NAHB.

For further information on the NAHB certification program, call 800-368-5242, ext. 216 or www.hbi.org or www.nahb.com.

The next professional organization to look for is the National Association of the Remodeling Industry. In 1988, the NARI certification program provided the remodeling industry with its first formalized standard of expertise, knowledge, and ethical conduct among professional remodelers. Today, the NARI Certification programs continue to offer a measure of skill and expertise valued not only by other professional remodelers, but by consumers as well.

Prized by those who have achieved the designation, the program identifies remodelers who have submitted themselves to detailed review and testing in areas of business management, ethical conduct, and technical skills. To many professional remodelers, NARI Certification offers one of their most valuable marketing tools assuring that the consumer is choosing a professional with years of experience, dedication to ongoing training, and a commitment to ethical conduct.

• **CR - Certified Remodeler**

NARI offers the designation of CR for Certified Remodeler, designed to recognize and identify full service professional remodelers.

For further information on the NARI certification program, call 800-966-7601 or www.nari.org.

What Is Important In A Builder Or Remodeler?

What are some of the important qualities to look for when selecting a builder or remodeler and do you have any pointers for the project?

When you hire a builder or remodeler, you are buying a service. A service can be more difficult to evaluate. You must look at expertise, experience and reputation. Selecting a builder or remodeler requires some investigation. Here are some questions to ask yourself when narrowing the field:

- ① How long has the company been in business?
- ② Does the contractor have a permanent business location and phone?
- ③ Does the builder or remodeler have proof of workman's compensation and general liability insurance?

