

USE THESE 5 SECRETS

TO LOOK LIKE AN EXPERT

when hiring a Framing subcontractor

You will hire, and manage an average of 24 different subcontractors* when building your own home. Selecting a skilled framer is crucial since the framing acts as the skeleton for your home. **Framing quality either positively, or negatively, influences the work of all downstream subcontractors.**

Here's a guide to help you pick a quality framer, ensuring a successful build **even without expert construction knowledge.**

Average of

24

Different
Subcontractors

1 ASK FOR A WALK-THROUGH

It's common to ask for a walk-through of a current job site, so feel free to ask when you're close to hiring your Framer. Visiting a framer's job site provides valuable insights into their workmanship and professionalism. It's more than just a tour; **it's an opportunity to observe and evaluate critical aspects of their work.**

Don't worry...follow these recommendations to look like an expert during the walk-through.

2 JOB SITE CLEANLINESS

The state of a job site at the end of a working day reveals the standard practices and professionalism of a framing crew. **A clean and organized site is not just about neatness; it speaks volumes about the framer's dedication to quality and efficiency.**

Organized stacks of lumber and materials signal a well-maintained job site. It goes beyond mere tidiness—it's about maintaining quality materials. When lumber is neatly stacked and protected from the elements, it remains in optimal condition, free from warping or damage caused by environmental factors. Care in handling materials reflects a framer's commitment to being an elite craftsman.

Furthermore, an organized site contributes to reducing material waste and minimizing injury. With everything in its place, it's easier to keep track of materials, ensuring efficient use. As a side benefit, fewer obstacles to navigate on the job site minimizes potential trip and fall accidents.

3

WORKER CONDUCT

The behavior of the crew is a reflection of the company's culture and ethics. Are the workers focused, respectful, and diligent? A positive work environment often leads to better quality work and a more reliable construction schedule. Look for a framing company exhibiting professionalism from top to bottom with a culture of efficiency, which doesn't always mean fast. To the untrained eye, framing job sites can seem loud and chaotic. But communication is key, which often means yelling over loud machinery and tools to ensure instructions are heard and people are safe.

4

ASSESSING CLEAN (QUALITY) FRAMING

Understanding what 'clean framing' is can help you gauge the quality of a framer's work.

Tight Joints: Inspect where walls and other structural components meet. Tight, well-fitted joints indicate a high level of precision and care in construction, which is crucial for the structural integrity of your home.

Minimal Protruding Nails: Excessive nails protruding from the lumber are not only a safety hazard but can also suggest rushed or careless work. Framers aren't perfect, but quality framing should exhibit neatness and attention to detail.

Floor Squeaks: Testing the floors for squeaks is a simple yet effective way to check the subfloor's installation quality. Squeaky floors can be a nuisance and may indicate problems in the framing or subfloor construction, which could get worse over time.

5

EXAMINE BEARING POINTS

Another crucial aspect of assessing a framer's workmanship lies in examining the bearing headers or bearing points. These structural components are fundamental since they support the weight of the home, ensuring its stability and safety. When inspecting these, look for precise installation, with little to no gaps or signs of careless framing.

It's important to understand that all houses naturally settle over time. However, well-constructed bearing points can significantly minimize settling. **When bearing points are tight and accurately installed, they transfer the structural load down to your foundation, thereby reducing the likelihood of massive settling.** This is crucial for maintaining the long-term structural integrity of your home.

Inadequately installed bearing points and headers, on the other hand, can lead to more dramatic settling. **The weight of the roof and floors above will push the gaps closed instead of transferring the weight down through the foundation.** This can manifest in various ways, such as cracks in walls, drywall screw pops, misaligned doors

and windows, and even compromised structural integrity. Such issues not only affect the aesthetics of your home but can also lead to costly repairs in the future.

Feel empowered to enquire.

As the General Contractor of your own home, you have the right and responsibility to ask questions and thoroughly inspect the work being done. A good framer will be proud of their craftsmanship and will be open to discussing their work and addressing your concerns.

**General Contractors hold their subs
accountable for clean, quality work.
You can too.**

Ryan Noel
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