



GUIDE TO CHOOSING A PROFESSIONAL DRIVEWAY COMPANY

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A new driveway is an investment, not something you buy every day.

You'll want to hire a company that will do a great job, be easy to deal with during the process, and who will answer all your concerns - even after the project is completed.

Here's how to make sure you choose a company that's going to get the job done properly.

1. - Ask the contractor for evidence of good business practice.

Once you've found a company that you are considering using, ask them for references from recent clients.

They should be more than happy to give you a list of recent testimonials and driveways you could view first hand.



Warning: Beware of contractors who won't comply with these requests. More often than not they will simply ignore your questions and you'll never hear from them again.

2. - Make sure the work is guaranteed.

Ask about guarantees, and how long the driveway is guaranteed for?

Ask whether the company is prepared to give you a guarantee in writing.

A reputable company will have no problem in giving you a guarantee of several years on both work and materials. A good guarantee is a sign of the contractor's confidence in their work.



Warning: Sub-standard contractors rarely offer visible guarantees. So watch out for any 'you don't need to worry about that' comments from their salesman.

3. - Make sure you know exactly what you're getting.

We recommend being up front about your budget as this is a great way to test the water with the salesman trying to get your business. Their reaction can give you a great insight into where their priorities lie.

Your chosen company should also provide you with a detailed quotation in writing with all details of the work that is going to be carried out along with descriptions of the style of blocks etc.

A reputable company will be happy to answer all your questions and modify the design accordingly should there be something you are not happy with.



Warning: Some firms fail to provide detailed quotes in writing. They'll also try to persuade you to commit to a driveway that's over your budget, often with a commission based sales person.

4. - Choose a contractor that respects your home

Many people are uncomfortable with workmen in their home, especially if things take longer than expected and communication is poor.

Ask your company what could affect the timescale provided for completion of your driveway.

A reputable company will be happy to sit down with you and explain how long the work will take and what happens if it rains or snows.



Warning: Look out for vague deadlines.

5. - Make sure you are happy with the payment arrangements

When you receive a quotation, check with the contractor what their payment terms are.

Most reputable companies will be happy to secure your project start date with a small deposit with the remainder balance either payable in stages or upon your install completion.

If you are wanting to pay by credit card this is something you should again check as most companies will charge a percentage fee for credit card payments if they accept them at all.



A company asking for anything more than a small deposit should set alarm bells ringing. Reputable contractors should be able to fund a contract without the need for a large outlay by you