

What should I ask a prospective tile setter?

Q. I am going to be hiring a tile setter. What kinds of questions should I ask them? By the way, I am in California.

A. Here is what a consumer should ask a prospective tile setter:

1. Verify the contractor has a C-54 specialty license, along with workers comp and general liability insurance and a local city business license.

2. Ask about work experience and verify references. If possible ask to do a walk-through of one of their jobs.

3. Ask them if they have ever performed similar types of installations in terms of both detail and type of materials you are looking to have installed.

Why? Because with all the different types of tile and stone that are out there, each one requires a separate skill level. For example, marble tiles vary in size and thickness and when an inexperienced installer tries to install them like a standard tile you end up with the infamous "lippage."

4. Ask them if they plan to use "CBU" which is a cement board underlayment.

Why? Because a traditional "Mud Man" has the advantage that he can make corrections on walls that are out of plumb, floors that are out of level or need to meet a specific elevation or wall thickness. This level of precision cannot be achieved using a CBU.

Your installer should offer to seal the finished grout for you, especially on a new construction site. Most of the time installers find homeowners are so overwhelmed with a remodel they don't want to deal with grout sealing and appreciate the tile setter taking care of it. For more information [contact us](#).

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