

# QUESTIONS TO ASK

## Before Hiring an Excavation Contractor

Hiring the right excavation contractor can make or break your project. Use these questions to evaluate potential contractors and make an informed decision.

### **1. Are you licensed and insured?**

Ask for proof of liability insurance and workers' comp coverage. This protects you if something goes wrong.

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### **2. How long have you been in business?**

Experience matters. Look for contractors with a track record in your type of project.

### **3. Do you handle utility locating?**

A reputable contractor will coordinate with 811 and ask about private utilities before digging.

### **4. What equipment do you use?**

The right equipment affects efficiency and results. Ask if they own or rent their equipment.

### **5. Can you provide references?**

Ask for recent project references and check online reviews.

### **6. What's included in the estimate?**

Get clarity on labor, equipment, hauling, disposal, and potential additional charges.

### **7. How do you handle unexpected conditions?**

Ask about their process if they hit rock, water, or buried debris.

### **8. What's the estimated timeline?**

Get a realistic timeframe and ask what factors could cause delays.

### **9. Who will be on site?**

Know who's managing the project and how to reach them during the work.

### **10. Do you pull permits if required?**

Ask if the contractor handles permits or if it's your responsibility.

## **11. What happens to the excavated material?**

Clarify whether hauling and disposal are included in the price.

## **12. What's your payment structure?**

Understand deposit requirements, payment schedule, and accepted methods.

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