

# 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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