

Professionalism in Home Building: Key to Selecting Your Builder

Anyone interested in buying a new home wants to find a quality house built by a professional. Often, you can easily identify professionalism when you see it but have trouble defining it. While professionalism may mean different things to different people, generally there are guiding principles by which homebuilding professionals conduct business. Look for these qualities in any home builder you choose to build your dream home.

- Building professionals believe that homes should be well-designed, well-constructed and well-located in attractive communities with accessible educational, recreational, religious and shopping facilities.
- They feel a strong responsibility to their customers and their community.
- Honesty is their guiding business policy, and they believe in dealing fairly with customers, employees, trade contractors and suppliers.
- They try to build high standards of health, safety and sanitation into every home.

An important indicator of professionalism is whether or not the builder or contractor belongs to a homebuilder association or other professional organization. Becoming a dues-paying member of a building industry association typically means that a builder is an established member of the community. Builder associations encourage their members to research and develop new materials, building techniques and equipment, and improve methods of home financing so that home buyers receive the greatest possible value for their money.

The Wilmington-Cape Fear Home Builders Association's members care about their industry and building a quality product that will serve the homeowner and community for years to come. The quality of a new home will be determined by the skill of the building professional that constructs it. You should evaluate your builder as carefully as you would select the options and features of your new home. When you buy a new home, you are purchasing more than just a structure—you are buying a package of services, and the quality of those services will have an important effect on your enjoyment of your house.

You will communicate frequently with your builder during and after the construction process so choose a builder with whom you feel comfortable working and with whom you feel best understands your needs. One of the best ways to find out about the builder is to ask previous customers. Don't be shy about visiting some of the builder's other communities and ask homeowners about their experiences. Interview more than one builder. You will be spending a lot of time together, make sure you feel that your builder and you can communicate honestly and effectively. Check with the NC Licensing Board for General Contractors <http://www.nclbgc.net/> and the Better Business Bureau of Coastal Carolina <http://www.carolina.bbb.org/> to see if any charges have been filed against your builder. If you have the opportunity, tour the homes showcased in the annual Parade of Homes to get an idea of the types and quality of construction available in the region.

By doing your homework, you will be able to shop for a home with confidence and the knowledge that will help you to make the correct decision for your family. For many people, buying a new home will be the single largest purchase they'll ever make. Make sure that you protect that investment by buying your dream home from a qualified professional builder. For more information about professional builders in the SE North Carolina, contact the WCFHBA at (910) 799-2611 or <http://www.wilmingtonhomebuilders.com>.