# Questions to Ask a Roofer Before Accepting a Bid

Before you sign a roofing contract, you need to be sure the bid you have is complete and fair. A low price can hide shortcuts, and a high price may include work you do not need. Asking the right questions helps you compare bids on the same basis and avoid surprises later. This is especially important when gutter replacement is part of the job, because gutter work affects how well the roof sheds water and how long the whole system lasts.

Start by asking about the scope of work. A good bid lists every task, from tear-off to disposal. If the roofer-maxwell-6a6dd7.s3.us-east-1.amazonaws.com bid only says "replace gutters" without details, you cannot tell what is included. Ask whether the bid covers removing old gutters, repairing the fascia or soffit if rot is found, and installing new hangers and downspouts. Also ask if the gutters will be seamless or joined with connectors. Seamless gutters, formed on site, have fewer leak points. Joined sections can work well if installed correctly, but the bid should say which method the roofer plans to use.

## Materials and Quality

Not all gutters are the same. Ask what gauge of metal or thickness of vinyl the bid includes. Heavier gauge metal lasts longer but costs more. For aluminum gutters.027 inch is a common standard, while .032 inch is more durable. Steel gutters should be galvanized and have a good paint or coating system. If the bid uses a generic term like "aluminum gutters," ask for the specific thickness and brand. For vinyl (PVC) gutters, ask about UV protection and impact resistance. Cheaper vinyl can become brittle in sun and crack under snow or ice load.

Ask about the downspout size and placement. Larger downspouts handle more water, which matters in heavy rain. The bid should show where each downspout will go and how the water will be directed away from the foundation. If the roofer plans to reuse old downspout locations, ask whether those locations are adequate for the new gutter size and roof area.

## Workmanship and Warranty

A written warranty matters more than a verbal promise. Ask what the roofer guarantees for workmanship and for how long. Many roofers offer a one-year workmanship warranty, but some give longer coverage for gutter systems. Also ask about the manufacturer's warranty on the gutter material. Some manufacturers require the roofer to be certified to honor the warranty, so ask if the roofer meets that requirement. You do not want to find out later that a material defect is not covered because the installer was not certified.

Ask how the roofer handles problems that show up after the job. Do they charge a trip fee for callbacks? How quickly do they respond to warranty claims? A clear answer gives you

confidence that they stand behind their work.

## Permits and Insurance

Roofing work often requires a permit from the local building department. Ask if the bid includes the permit fee and who pulls the permit. If the roofer says a permit is not needed, check with your city or county office yourself. Some roofers skip permits to save time or money, but that can cause trouble when you sell the house or if an inspection reveals code violations later.

Ask for proof of insurance, including general liability and workers' compensation. A roofer who carries both protects you if a worker gets hurt on your property or if the work damages your house. Ask for a certificate of insurance sent directly from the insurance company, not a copy from the roofer. The policy should name you as an additional insured for the job. If the roofer hesitates to provide this, consider that a red flag.

## Payment and Schedule

Ask how the roofer wants to be paid. A reasonable payment schedule ties payments to completed milestones, not to time. For example, a deposit to cover materials, then progress payments, and final payment after inspection and cleanup. Avoid roofers who ask for the full amount upfront. Also ask what happens if the job takes longer than expected. Does the bid include a timeline with start and finish dates? What happens if weather delays the work? A good roofer will give a realistic schedule and communicate delays.

Ask about cleanup. Does the bid include hauling away old gutters and debris? Will the roofer use magnets to pick up nails and screws? A clean job site shows professionalism and reduces the chance of injury or damage.

## Handling Unexpected Problems

Gutter replacement often reveals hidden issues. The fascia board behind the gutter may be rotted, or the roof sheathing near the eaves may need repair. Ask how the roofer handles such discoveries. Do they charge a fee for stopping work and writing a change order? Do they give you a written estimate for the extra work before proceeding? A roofer who starts repairs without asking first can leave you with a bill you did not expect.

Ask what the bid includes for flashing and drip edge. These metal pieces direct water into the gutter and protect the roof edge. If the bid does not mention them, ask if they are standard or an extra cost. Some bids include basic drip edge but charge more for a wider or heavier version.

## Comparing Bids Fairly

When you have answers to these questions, you can compare bids side by side. The cheapest bid may omit important items like permits, cleanup, or warranty coverage. The most expensive bid may include premium materials or a longer warranty that is worth the extra cost. Ask each roofer to clarify anything that is not clear. A roofer who answers patiently and thoroughly is likely to communicate well during the job.

If you are in the Tulsa area and working with a local contractor such as roofer-maxwell-6a6dd7.s3.us-east-1.amazonaws.com, the same questions apply. A local roofer who knows the area's weather patterns and building codes can give you a bid that fits the conditions. Hail damage, for instance, is common in parts of Oklahoma and can affect gutters. Ask how the roofer handles hail-damaged gutters and whether the bid includes replacing damaged sections or only the whole run.

## Final Checks Before Signing

Before you sign, read the contract carefully. Make sure the items you discussed are in writing. Check that the start date, payment schedule, and warranty terms match what you agreed to. If the roofer made verbal promises, ask to have them added to the contract. A written contract protects both you and the roofer.

Ask for references from recent gutter jobs. A roofer who does good work will have homeowners willing to vouch for them. Call those references and ask about the roofer's punctuality, cleanup, and whether the gutters performed well in the first heavy rain. Also ask if any problems came up after installation and how the roofer handled them.

Choosing a roofer is not just about the lowest price. It is about getting a job done right, with materials that last, and with a contractor who stands behind the work. The questions above help you see which bid offers real value and which one might cost you more in the long run.