PLUMBER PROS — GUIDE

How to choose a plumber and compare quotes

Check the licence, define the job and compare the written scope before hiring.

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Start with a clear job description. Say what is leaking, where the problem is and whether water service is affected. Send photos if the business asks for them. Do not guess a repair method before the plumber has assessed the problem.

Check the exact business

Ask for the legal business name, licence number and issuing agency. Match the details with the public record. California's CSLB consumer page is a useful example of an official hiring resource. The licensing agencies linked in our licensing guide serve different places and licence classes. Check the agency for your own job address.

Ask who will attend and who supervises the work. If the quote includes a gas line or a change in fuel, ask which qualification covers that part. A directory listing, member directory entry or paid badge is not a substitute for checking the right licence.

Ask the same questions

- Can you assess this specific problem at this address?
- What does the visit or diagnostic charge cover?
- Will I receive a written scope before repair work?
- What is included in the quoted price and currency?
- Who handles any required permit and inspection?
- What happens if you find more damage?
- What are the payment schedule and warranty terms?

Write down the answers. For planned work, compare quotes on the same scope. A short quote may omit disposal, access work or restoration that another includes.

Separate urgency from scope

For an urgent leak, ask what the first visit will do to limit damage and assess the repair. Ask whether a later visit is needed for permanent work. Do not mistake an emergency attendance charge for a complete repair price. Ask for the amount and inclusions before agreeing.

Read exclusions and changes

Mark any allowance or excluded task. Ask how the contractor will obtain approval for extra work. Request a written change before accepting a different model, a longer pipe run or additional

restoration. Keep messages and approvals with the contract.

Keep the closeout file

Save the quote, approved changes, permit documents where applicable, final invoice and equipment details. Ask for maintenance instructions and warranty contacts. Confirm current contact details before final payment under your agreed schedule. If a dispute concerns licensing, ask the issuing agency about its complaint process rather than assuming another jurisdiction's process applies.

Sources

Checked 2026-11-10. These pages can change.

- California CSLB: Hire a Licensed Contractor, accessed 2026-11-10.
- Washington L&I: Plumber Certification, accessed 2026-11-10.
- Skilled Trades Ontario: Plumber, accessed 2026-11-10.

Frequently asked questions

Does a Verified badge mean trade approval?

No. On Plumber Pros it confirms listing ownership. Check trade qualifications with the issuing agency.