

Tips to Hiring the Best Contractor for your job.

- Most general contractors are experts at home construction. They are accustomed to dealing with a variety of tasks. Successful contractors recognize that they can't be experts at everything, so they enlist the services of specialty contractors. Water damage mitigation and drying is no different. You may not want to have your builder or handyman handle your water damage unless they have the experience and equipment to do so.
- Many insurance companies have a preferred vendor. These are contractors that get repeat business from your insurer. With this tie to your insurance, a preferred vendor may short cut work in an effort to keep the insurer happy. Since this choice is ultimately yours, it may be best to use a mitigation company that is not reliant on your insurer to provide business. You typically pay no more to have the mitigation contractor of your choice.
- Water mitigation contractors should be certified to perform these services. The institute of Inspection, Cleaning and Restoration Certification (IICRC) is the largest organization that certifies water property restoration professionals.
- Water mitigation contractors should be licensed in the state they are working.
- Some carpet cleaners handle small water damages. Most carpet cleaners are not building contractors and are not licensed to perform demolition services. Since demolition is often required to effectively dry a structure, these providers could be working outside of their license. Even worse, they could curtail necessary work so that they only do tasks they are licensed to do.
- Since mold can develop quickly in a wet environment, your mitigation contractor should be able to respond to your damage within 24 hours. They should be able to provide a devoted crew to your project until the property is stabilized.
- To adequately dry a home, the mitigation contractor should have the needed equipment. This at times can include a number of dehumidifiers and tens of air movers. Unless an extremely large job, the contractor should own his equipment and not rely on the local rental outfit. Most general rental companies do not have enough equipment for larger water losses. If your contractor is limited by what he can immediately rent, it is likely your home will not be dried effectively.
- It is preferable to have a local mitigation contractor who can supervise your project without requiring a three hour drive. Long distance projects typically get neglected as they are too expensive to travel to.

