10 QUESTIONS YOU BETTER ASK… BEFORE YOU HIRE A CONTRACTOR.

1. **How long has the company been in business?**

This may be the single most important question you ask. The longer a company has been in business, the better — for you. In fact, staying power is the single biggest indicator of competence, professionalism and trustworthiness. At Cornerstone, we’re proud of our 30+ years in SWFL. To this day, our best salespeople are satisfied customers who recommend us to their friends and neighbors… and that says it all.

2. **Is the company locally owned and operated?**

Yes and yes. Cornerstone was founded by Anthony (“Tony”) Leopardi way back in 1989, and remains to this day a family business. We’re all about creating jobs, investing in our local communities, and giving back. (Many of our employees have been with us since day 1.) We’re your neighbors, and our reputation for great work at a fair price, no exceptions, is what makes us, us.

3. **Does the company subcontract out their cabinet or countertop installation work?**

NO. And this is very important: we do not subcontract cabinet or countertop installation work. And the reason we use our own people: we trained them to our own meticulous standards, so we trust them to do it right.

4. **Does the company provide designers, to make sure you’re aware of the best possible design options for your particular home, as well as your own personal tastes?**

Yes. In fact, we have over 40 talented and experienced designers on staff to make sure you’re aware of — and get to choose from — the latest remodeling trends and styles. It’s often our favorite part of the job: seeing customers “light up” when they discover possibilities they may have never considered.

5. **Does the company have a shop where they locally produce materials used on your project? (Cabinets, Thermofoil doors, etc.)**

Do we ever. In fact, Cornerstone own and operates several shops in the area, each dedicated to sourcing, building and finishing every part of your new project. From hand-made custom cabinets and door fronts to fabricating granite or quartz counter tops (our selection is huge) — we do pretty much everything by way of experienced craftsman and carpenters. We also stock several lines of pre-made cabinetry and refacing materials so we can offer some very cost-effective options as well.

6. **Does the company have electricians, plumbers, carpenters, dry- wallers, tile installers, painters, and glass and mirror installers on staff?**

Yes in every case, and it’s another feature unique to Cornerstone Builders. We employ true professionals in every department for every facet of the job. Our bench is deep, experienced and talented — and it’s how we deliver the “wow” we promise on every job.

7. **Does the company have showrooms where you can go to see their products?**

This is the fun part: want to see just how beautiful your new kitchen or bath might look, when it’s done? Want to feel and hold our materials for yourself, check out hundreds of fixtures and handles, browse cabinet finishes and counter options? Cornerstone has four convenient showroom locations where you can do all of that, and more. No pressure, no commitments… just come for the fun of it, and let us make you a fresh cup of coffee!

8. **What about deposits and warranties?**

At Cornerstone, no deposit is required, but if you’d like to leave one anyway, the amount is entirely up to you. The one exception: if a job is delayed by the customer, we do ask for a deposit. As a company, Cornerstone has been — and always will be — rooted in trust. After all, we live here, too.

9. **Is the company licensed and insured? And are they registered with the State of Florida as well as local accredited organizations?**

We are, and you can also find listed on sunbiz.org and the Better Business Bureau to name a few. (Cornerstone Builders of SWFL Inc: Licensed and Insured Certified Building Contractor #CBC 1253280.)

10. **What is the company’s warranty?**

You don’t last long in this business, much less 30 years, if you don’t deliver quality products and stand behind your work. Cornerstone gives you a lifetime material warranty on the products we manufacture for as long as you own your home.

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