

LIVING SHORELINE QUESTIONS FOR CONTRACTORS

GENERAL EXPERIENCE AND CREDENTIALS

How long have you been in the landscaping design, consulting, or installation business?

- Ask about acknowledgements, awards, or accolades earned for their work.

Are you licensed within your state?

- Ask for a copy of their Marine Contractors License and ensure it is current and in good standing by verifying their information at the following site: <https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/water/WetlandsandWaterways/Pages/LicensedMarineContractors.aspx>

What types of insurance do you carry?

- General liability insurance - ask for a copy of contractor's general liability insurance certificate.
- Workers' compensation insurance - ask for a copy of current worker's compensation certificate.

What kind of written warrant or guarantee do you offer?

How do you typically communicate with your clients about projects and keep them informed along the way?

- Ensure there is a plan in place for schedules updates and communication if the contractor does not offer one.

LIVING SHORELINE PROJECT-SPECIFIC QUESTIONS

What is the estimated cost of my living shoreline project?

- Are you able to offer a fixed cost vs. estimated?
- What's your typical payment schedule?

What is an expected timeline for this type of project?

Who will be actually doing the work on my property?

- Who will the Team be comprised of? Get names and their experience levels.
- Will you be hiring sub-contractors for this work? How do you choose your sub-contractors?

How long does it take for vegetation to propagate or mature into a working, living shoreline?

How long will erosion protection last?

Will I still have access to my shoreline?

How will your Team access my site – by land or by barge?

What kind of post-installation maintenance work will I be required to do?

LIVING SHORELINE EXPERIENCE

How many years of experience do you have in designing, consulting or installing actual living shorelines?

- *How many living shorelines have you designed or consulted on versus installed?*
- *Does your work include private, public, or community living shorelines?*

What type of specific living shoreline services do you offer?

- *Site assessment and analysis including evaluation of erosion potential and duration of erosion protection?*
- *Design plan?*
- *Funding sources?*
- *Permitting process?*
- *Plant selection?*
- *Maintenance advice?*

Can you provide a list of references for completed living shorelines projects?

- *Include contact names and actual addresses so you can go and physically view the work.*
- *Ensure you ask references the following:*
 - » *Was work completed in a timely manner?*
 - » *Was work of sufficient quality within contracted price?*
 - » *Were you satisfied with the way the project was managed and communications along the way?*

OTHER KEY TIPS

Approach multiple contractors for quotes. You want to have a good understanding of the market to ensure that you are getting a reasonable quote.

Make sure all project material selections are spelled out and signed in a written contract. Ensure your contract includes plans, costs, and timelines. If you don't understand the contract, have a private attorney review it.

Pay no more than 1/3 down as a deposit. Never pay cash.

Refer to Chesapeake Bay Landscape Professional Directory:
<https://certified.cblpro.org/>

