

When you're in the market for a true custom home experience, we think you should ask some questions of the builders you're interviewing. If you're not in the market for true custom home, this list won't be as applicable.

Some builders are better at building off stock plans or tweaking model homes. There is a big need for that in the marketplace. Some builders are tract builders and provide a lot of value for first time homeowners. Some builders focus on patio homes, condos, townhomes or apartments. We at P.L. Lyons, Inc. focus on custom homebuilding and remodeling. We take you from conception to completion. If you're interested in a true custom experience then please read below.

1. Does your custom builder use an estimating program?
2. Does your custom builder belong to the local HBAL?
3. Does your custom builder belong to the national NAHB?
4. Does your custom builder have proper licenses?
5. Does your custom builder have proper insurance?
6. Does your custom builder understand the building permit process?
7. Does your custom builder keep up with changes in national and local building codes?
8. Does your custom builder have a long track record?
9. Does your custom builder offer to introduce you to past customers?
10. Does your custom builder show you past work they've done?
11. Does your custom builder have a great relationship with a local draftsman and/or architect?
12. Does your custom builder have long-term relationships with their subcontractors?
13. Does your custom builder have a website?
14. Can your custom builder build on vacant land, infill lots and new development lots?
15. Does your custom builder have experience building outside Jefferson County, KY?
16. Does your custom builder have a team of employees or are they a lone wolf?
17. Does your custom builder operate out of an office or the back of a truck?
18. Is your custom builder local or just popping in town for a bit?
19. Does your builder understand the balance between energy efficiently, green building and the costs associated with it?
20. Will your custom builder level with you or tell you everything you want to hear?
21. Does your custom builder use a basement waterproofing product like Rub R Wall?
22. Does your custom builder use a house wrap product?

23. Does your custom builder allow you to change the stock plans they have?
24. Does your custom builder understand how to handle building on lots without sewer connections?
25. Does your custom builder understand how to control and manage costs of materials and labor?
26. Does your custom builder walk you through selection allowances?
27. Does your custom builder have a way of showing you where your costs are going?
28. Does your custom builder use a professional set of specifications?
29. Does your custom builder use the standard HBAL contract?
30. Does your custom builder understand construction loan financing?
31. Does your custom builder offer a one year warranty?
32. Can your custom builder take off a plan and estimate it?
33. Does your custom builder use quality building materials?
34. Does your custom builder allow you to make changes along the way as long as costs are adjusted?
35. Does your custom builder hold your hand and listen to your needs or just try to give you what they think you want?
36. Does your custom builder offer the options you want or pigeon hole you?
37. Does your custom builder know what's trendy versus what stands the test of time?
38. Does your custom builder keep up with changes in materials and processes?
39. Does your custom builder remain open to changes while avoiding fads?
40. Is your custom builder able to finish what they start on deadline?
41. Does your custom builder have a track record of problem solving when things go wrong?
42. Does your custom builder care about you and your home or just making a dollar?
43. Does your custom builder get repeat business and referrals from existing customers?
- 44) Does your custom builder cut corners or do they go the extra mile and take pride in their product?

If you want more answers to your custom building and remodeling questions please check out our blog at <http://pillyons.com/blog>

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