

# QUESTIONS TO ASK



## INFORMATION SHEET

### THE PROBLEM

Finding building companies, designers, products and suppliers is one of the biggest problems people say they have when it comes to environmental design. Here are some key questions to ask.

#### ARCHITECTS, DESIGNERS, ENGINEERS

- What professional association are you a member of? (eg, NZ Institute of Architects [nzia.co.nz](http://nzia.co.nz), Architectural Designers NZ [adnz.org.nz](http://adnz.org.nz), Design Association NZ [danz.co.nz](http://danz.co.nz))
- How long have you been practicing or interested in eco design?
- What indemnity insurance do you have?
- Can you refer me to examples of your work?
- Can you refer me to clients you've done work for? Can I talk with them?
- Does this seem like the kind of person I can work with? Do they listen?
- Lists of practitioners are available on most association websites.

#### PRODUCT SUPPLIERS

- How long have you been in business?
- Are you a member of a trade association?
- What guarantee do you provide?
- What is the measured performance of your product/system? How does that compare with similar products?
- What are the maintenance requirements of your product/system?
- What is the expected life of your product/system? Can it be recycled?
- Is your product/system appraised or endorsed by an independent, third-party agency, such as BRANZ, Environmental Choice, Green Tag, Ecospecifier, FSC, Greenpeace, etc.

#### BUILDING COMPANIES, TRADESPEOPLE

- What trade training, qualifications, and experience do you have?
- Are you a member of a trade association (Master Builders, Certified Builders, Master Plumbers etc)?
- What guarantee do you provide?
- Can you refer me to examples of your work?
- Can you refer me to clients you've done work for?
- Does this seem like the kind of person I can work with? Do they listen?
- Do you have a rating on [nocowboys.co.nz](http://nocowboys.co.nz), [mytradesman.co.nz](http://mytradesman.co.nz), or a similar rating scheme?

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Contact your nearest Eco Design Advisor  
Visit our website [ecodesignadvisor.org.nz](http://ecodesignadvisor.org.nz)

View helpful resources at:

- [consumerbuild.org.nz](http://consumerbuild.org.nz)
- [smarterhomes.org.nz](http://smarterhomes.org.nz)

