Clarify these points before choosing

Example project: house and garage siding

Do not choose by price alone yet. These proposals cover different work. Compare what each price buys, then ask for the missing details in writing.

Names, prices and distinctive project details have been changed for privacy. This sample demonstrates the report format; it is not a recommendation about any real contractor.

What you get for your money

Contractor	What it costs	What you get and what to watch
Contractor A	$34,000 fiber-cement siding OR $33,000 vinyl siding. These are separate choices, not added totals.	House and garage siding removal, disposal, weather barrier, flashing, trim and sealing. A labor warranty is listed. Confirm the material choice and whether painting is included. The quote needs updated written pricing.
Contractor B	$28,000 for house and detached garage siding. Painting is not included.	Remove existing siding; install weather barrier, flashing, trim and fiber-cement siding; seal and remove debris. A workmanship warranty is listed. Rot repairs cost extra. Confirm repair rates, how changes are approved, the payment schedule and the start date.
Contractor C	House: $48,000. Garage: $7,000, quoted separately. These cover more work than the other proposals.	Siding, replacement windows and exterior painting are included for both buildings. Do not compare these totals as siding-only prices. Ask for a consistent siding breakdown and clarification of optional work and any hazardous-material costs.

Options remain separate choices. Prices are not equal-scope totals unless confirmed. Missing wording does not mean work is excluded.

Before you sign: ask these questions

- Ask all three contractors for current prices covering the same siding work, with painting and windows listed separately.
- Contractor A: Which siding material is priced, and is painting included?
- Contractor B: What would painting cost, and how will extra repairs be measured and approved?
- Contractor C: Can you separate siding, windows and painting and reconcile the siding figures?

Technology finds the details. Experience puts them into context.

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