AVEX MASONRY

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Contractor Comparison Worksheet

Choosing a hardscaping contractor is a big decision, and two estimates for the same patio can describe two very different projects. Use these questions with every contractor you talk to so you're comparing apples to apples. We've filled in our answers. Fill in the others as you go.

THE COMPANY	AVEX MASONRY	CONTRACTOR A	CONTRACTOR B
Are you licensed and insured in Connecticut?	**Yes**		
Are you family-owned and operated?	**Yes**		
Are you a manufacturer-certified installer?	**Yes** Techo-Bloc certified installer		
What is your Google rating?	**5 stars**		
Can I see photos of past projects?	**Yes** Online portfolio and project map		

DESIGN & PROPOSAL	AVEX MASONRY	CONTRACTOR A	CONTRACTOR B
Is the estimate free?	**Yes**		
Can you create a 3D design of my project?	**Yes, optional** Design fee is credited back if you move forward		
Do you take before and after photos?	**Yes**		
Is the proposal detailed, with measurements and every material listed?	**Yes** No last-minute surprises or change orders		
Will someone walk me through the proposal?	**Yes** Zoom walkthrough, questions answered live		
Is the payment schedule clearly written out?	**Yes, in the proposal**		
Do you offer financing?	**Yes** Through Regions / EnerBank		
Is there a written warranty?	**Yes** Details in your written proposal		

CREW & PROJECT	AVEX MASONRY	CONTRACTOR A	CONTRACTOR B
Is all work done in-house, with no subcontractors?	**Yes** Design and installation, all in-house		
Is it the same team from measuring to finish?	**Yes**		
Is there a project manager on site?	**Yes**		
Do you handle permits if they're needed?	**Yes**		
Who supplies materials, machines and extras?	**We do** Nothing for you to order or coordinate		
Is the site kept neat during the job?	**Yes** Organized at the end of every workday		
Final cleanup and disturbed areas restored?	**Yes** Backfilled with topsoil		

How it's built

PATIOS & WALKWAYS	AVEX MASONRY	CONTRACTOR A	CONTRACTOR B
How deep do you excavate?	**10 to 12 inches**		
Is stabilizing fabric installed under the base?	**Yes**		
What base stone do you use?	**3/4" clean stone** Not dense grade, so water drains properly		
What is the setting bed under the pavers?	**3/8" clean stone**		
How are the joints finished?	**Polymeric sand** Compacted and vibrated all the way in		
Is the surface sloped for drainage?	**Yes, pitched and leveled**		

RETAINING WALLS	AVEX MASONRY	CONTRACTOR A	CONTRACTOR B
What goes behind a retaining wall?	**About 3 ft of clean stone** Soil dug out and replaced		
Is soil separated from the stone with fabric?	**Yes**		
Is there a drain pipe at the footing?	**Yes, perforated pipe**		
Is backfill compacted in lifts, with geogrid?	**Yes** Geogrid every other row		

Why these questions matter

A proposal you can actually understand

Many estimates arrive as a short PDF with a price and little else: no measurements, no list of materials, and no one to explain it. Homeowners end up guessing, and the guesses are often wrong. Our proposals list measurements, materials and a clear payment schedule, and we walk you through every line over Zoom so your questions get answered on the spot.

The hidden cost of "labor-only" quotes

Some contractors quote labor and ask you to arrange materials yourself. That sounds cheaper until you're ordering stone, scheduling deliveries and chasing missing items. It's a lot to coordinate, it's easy to get wrong, and it often causes delays. We bring the materials, machines and any extras the job needs, so you don't have to manage any of it.

The same people from start to finish

We don't sub out work. The AVEX team that measures your yard and builds your proposal is the same crew that shows up to build it, with a project manager on site.

What's under the surface counts

Base depth, clean stone, fabric and drainage are invisible once a job is finished, but they decide how it holds up through Connecticut winters. Every one of these details is written into our proposal.

Ready to compare?

Book a free estimate and see what a detailed proposal looks like.

Book a Free Estimate →

or call (860) 837-0909