Hardscape Planning Checklist for Michigan Homeowners

Look and record

Walk the site before asking for proposals. Bring this sheet and a sketch to the first conversation.

- [ ] **Mark the places that meet**
  Number the door, steps, garage slab, walk, street edge, beds or walls where the new work meets them.
- [ ] **Follow the water**
  On your sketch, mark each downspout, low spot and where runoff or meltwater ends up today.
- [ ] **Think through winter use**
  Mark where you shovel or plow, pile snow and use de-icer. Note where meltwater collects.
- [ ] **Record what it needs to carry**
  List foot traffic, furniture or vehicles. Flag what a wall would hold back and what sits above it.

Sketch your site

Number the connections and use arrows to show where water moves.

Priority to bring up first _____

More preparation for a landscape design consultation

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Ask and compare

Write each contractor's answer in the proposal grid. Ask them to explain changes and exclusions in writing.

- ☐ **Under the surface**
  What base suits the site and use? How will it be compacted? Would you use fabric here, and why?
- ☐ **Water and connections**
  Where will rain and snowmelt go? How will the finish meet the door, garage, walk or street?
- ☐ **Edges and wall drainage**
  How will edges and joints be held? If a wall is planned, how will it be supported and drained?
- ☐ **People, checks and approvals**
  Who designs, builds and checks the work? Who arranges utility locates and checks with the local or road authority?

Compare proposals

What to compare	Proposal A	Proposal B
Base and fabric		
Edges and joints		
Water, snow and transitions		
Wall support and drainage		
Design, build and cleanup		
Walkthrough and care		
Exclusions and written changes		

At the walkthrough

Review water paths, transitions, edges, wall details and care. Record any agreed adjustments and who will follow up.

Sources and further reading

CMHA paving · CMHA edges · CMHA winter care · CMHA walls · MISS DIG 811

Road Commission for Oakland County · Oakland County water resources