



Some research you might want to do before you even contact the web designer.

1. Check out their website on a computer and a Mobile phone. Does it display nicely on both screens? Check tablet too if you want, but Mobile and Computer is most important.
2. Check for ratings/reviews or testimonials. I'd check on their website, their Facebook page, and Google. The Google reviews will actually be on Google Maps. Go to Google Maps and type in their web design company and see what shows up. Keep in mind how long they've been in business should determine how many reviews they have. If there's any negative reviews, make sure they were an actual customer and not just a random "hater".
3. Pricing. Is the price available on their website? If it is, that's usually a good sign. Understand though that there will sometimes be special software, programs etc...needed that could change that.
4. Check for SSL Security certificate. See #5 below.
5. How do you get ahold of them if you run into an issue? How fast is their customer response time?

These are 10 Questions you should get answers to before hiring a web designer.

1. What platform are we building the website on? We highly recommend WordPress. Especially if you ever want to blog.
2. Who is paying for the “Hosting” and “Domain Name” and renewals?
3. Who is doing the updates on the website? They should be done at least monthly. The theme, and plugins need to be updated just like the apps on your phone do. Someone has to login to the website and do these on a regular basis.
4. Do they do SEO work as well, or is that separate? There are web designers and there are SEO guys. And some do both. Just make sure you know what your designer does for that price so there’s no surprises later. Also depending on how you are planning on driving traffic to your site, you might not need a lot of SEO work done.
5. Is there an SSL Certificate installed? This makes your website more secure and helps a little with SEO too. “The Googles” favor secure websites over non-secure ones. Look for the green lock.  Check your designer’s website.
6. Can I easily get reviews, ratings, and/or testimonials to put on my website, Google, Facebook? These make a powerful selling tool.

7. Timeframe. How long is this going to take? Not important for everybody but it is for some.
8. What if I want changes made? Is there an extra charge for that?
9. Can I see some examples of work you have done? (If the designer displays links to his happy customers sites right on his website, that's a good sign.)
10. Do you have a referral program? Can I get paid to refer others to you? This may or may not be important to you. But it is for some people.

Did I miss anything? Any other questions that you can think of?

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