

# **Top 10 Recommendations to Consider Before Hiring a Ground Penetrating Radar Company**

**As more companies begin to offer Ground Penetrating Radar services it is important to differentiate the experienced / qualified companies that will get your job done right and on time. Any qualified company should be able to sufficiently explain each of these points and make you, the client, feel confident in their work.**

## **1. Determine the companies overall level of experience.**

This is important for any company you hire to perform a service for you. You want to have a feeling of confidence that you have hired the right company or person for the job. You should ask what their experience level is with their equipment. How long have they been involved with this technology and what kind of work have they have done? Where has most of their work come from? Through this conversation, you should be able to develop a better feeling regarding this company's ability to meet your needs.

## **2. Ask for references.**

This is not uncommon for any service business and this is an extension of determining the overall level of experience of the company you are dealing with. Taking a few minutes to contact references is worthwhile.

## **3. Ask for similar project experience.**

It is important that you establish with the company you are dealing with that they have enough experience in the application you are going to hire them for. Ask about other projects they have worked on that have been similar in scope and size.

## **4. Find out if the company you are dealing with specializes in your certain area of application.**

GPR can be used for many different purposes. There are companies that use GPR primarily for concrete applications such as laying out the path of rebar and post-tensioning cables prior to core drilling or mapping embedded electrical conduits onto the surface prior to saw cutting or core drilling. Other companies may use it for primarily for environmental inspections where sites need to be investigated to determine the presence of underground storage tanks (UST's) or buried drums. Another specialty is scanning for underground utilities prior to an excavation.

If you need to core drill into a post-tension slab, it is unlikely that you would want to hire a company who specializes in using GPR for environmental investigations.

#### **5. What kind of training process do their operators go through?**

It is possible for this equipment to be acquired and for someone to attempt to perform jobs with it. It is a good idea to verify that at a minimum, the person coming out to do your work has gone through the manufacturer's training course. Preferably, there would be some additional training the technicians are put through before being sent into the field to perform the work.

#### **6. What recognizable projects have they worked on?**

This question should also verify experience. Assuming the company you are dealing with is within driving distance of your location, you would likely know of some of the projects they may have worked on. It's a good idea to ask as this can be a good indicator of experience as well.

#### **7. Get an idea of time involved and a proposed cost.**

While this may seem to be common sense, it is still recommended that you ask about time involved and what the cost for the services should be. As is common throughout the construction industry, it is unlikely that a company would be hired without giving a reasonable estimate of what the costs will be in advance.

#### **8. What areas do they serve – where are they coming from?**

We certainly understand that contractors are always facing a deadline and there is a critical path timeline to meet project schedules. By hiring someone who is local, you can eliminate the uncertainties that come with travel such as flight delays and the risk of lost or delayed arrival of equipment.

#### **9. How much notice do they need to get a job scheduled?**

Generally jobs are not scheduled on the first phone call. It is a good idea to have an understanding of how much notice you need to provide when it does come time to schedule the work. Schedules can vary and you should ask what is sufficient for lead time.

#### **10. What is the viability of your specific application?**

There are some applications that GPR will not be a great fit for GPR. Be prepared to have an idea what types of soils you are dealing with, as this is the most crucial factor for success in scanning in ground based applications.

Give as much detail as you can, describing what you would like to accomplish and what potential obstacles you face. The company you are dealing with should ask a few questions regarding your application to get a sense of what they are facing.

**If you have any questions please give us a call, we'd be happy to help regardless of using our services.**



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