

Questions to ask before a wine cellar quote

Use a focused question list to expose missing work and unclear responsibility.

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Start with a written project brief. Give each bidder the same plan and ask them to show every exclusion. Keep the answers with the proposal, not only in email or a sales call.

Design and enclosure

- Is this room intended for ageing, display or serving?
- Who checks the existing floor, walls and ceiling?
- How will vapour control continue around doors, glazing and service penetrations?
- What happens at the floor and ceiling junctions?
- Which drawing is approved for fabrication?

WhisperKOOL's construction guide treats the enclosure and cooling as linked decisions. A cooling unit cannot correct a poorly sealed room by itself.

Cooling and noise

- Who calculates the heat load and what conditions do they assume outside each surface?
- Where does rejected heat go?
- Where will the condensate drain and how can it be inspected?
- Where will noise be heard outside the cellar?
- Can a technician remove the unit without dismantling the rack or glazing?

Ask for the exact model and electrical requirements. Request a written service route for faults. A promise that a unit is quiet needs a stated test condition and location.

Money and handover

Ask whether the price includes design, demolition, enclosure, cooling, racking, glass, lighting, freight, tax and making good. Ask what triggers a variation and how it is approved. Do not compare a rack-only supply quote with a complete room.

At handover, request approved drawings, manuals, warranty registration, permit records and recorded operating conditions. Ask who receives alarms when the house is empty. If no one owns a task, treat it as an unresolved item before signing.

Sources

- WhisperKOOL, How to Build a Wine Cellar. Accessed 2026-10-29; no publication date shown. [Read the source.](#)
- WhisperKOOL, Wine Cellar Cooling Calculator. Accessed 2026-10-29; no publication date shown. [Read the source.](#)
- Rosehill Wine Cellars, Custom Wine Cellar Design and Installation. Accessed 2026-10-29; no publication date shown. [Read the source.](#)

Frequently asked questions

What should a cellar quote itemize?

Ask for separate design, enclosure, cooling, racking, glass, electrical, freight and tax amounts. Record exclusions, variation approval and who handles each excluded task.