



Nevada State Contractors Board

NEWS RELEASE

www.nscb.state.nv.us

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Avoid Home Repair or Remodeling Scams

Nevada is home to some of the fastest growing communities in the country and continues to attract new residents and visitors from around the world. New homes are being built at an astonishing rate as a healthy economy and warm weather make it a great environment for year-round construction.

An unfortunate by-product of that growth is that it also attracts unlicensed criminal contractors who come with the intent to scam consumers, particularly seniors, regarding home improvement and remodeling.

Here are a few “red flags” when it comes to home improvements:



Door-to-door solicitations

If an individual approaches your home and offers home improvement services, chances are that he is not a legitimate contractor. The construction industry is bustling (thriving) to the point that legitimate licensed contractors have no need to solicit door-to-door.



“Great deals” using left-over materials

Many scam artists approach homeowners and claim to be able to do a job for a good price because they have extra supplies from another job that they just finished. This is not how legitimate contractors do business.



Cash/payment up front

Criminal unlicensed contractors often attempt to get payment up front to “buy materials.” Any contractor who can’t begin the work without payment, other than a small down payment, is not being honest. At best, he has a cash-flow problem – at worst, he intends to steal your money and do little or no work for you.

How can you protect yourself, your loved ones and your neighborhood from unlicensed contracting scams?

- **Hire only licensed contractors**

Unlicensed contracting is a crime in Nevada. It creates a liability risk to homeowners if the unlicensed contractor injures himself on your job. When you use a licensed contractor, the Nevada State Contractors Board can help in resolving workmanship

issues, and you may be able to recover damages from the Residential Recovery Fund in the event that the licensed contractor fails to properly complete your project.

- **Be aware**

Pay attention to what's happening in your neighborhood. If someone is going door-to-door and you notice their vehicle, look for the five-digit contractor license number that should be displayed on it. Also look for the license number on business cards or advertisements.

- **Call the Contractors Board**

If you don't see a license number on a vehicle or business card, or if things look suspicious, contact the NSCB immediately at (702) 486-1160 or (775) 850-7838. You can remain anonymous if you wish. Also, keep an eye out for your senior neighbors. Scam artists often target them and will return repeatedly, talking payment each time for faulty work or none at all.

Consumers can check a contractor's license by calling the Nevada State Contractors Board at (702) 486-1100 in Las Vegas or (775) 688-1141 in Reno or visit www.nscb.state.nv.us. Make sure that any contractor that you are considering has a current license for the work you need done. One of best defenses against unlicensed contracting is an informed homeowner. Help the NSCB protect you and your neighborhood.

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