

e-News

Release

Nevada State Contractors Board

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Contractors Board Cites Five Alleged Unlicensed Contractors

Juan Marquez Sales, dba Marble & Granite, 3250 Sirius Ave, Las Vegas, NV, was recently contacted by a NSCB investigator over his Craigslist advertisement for the installation of kitchen countertops in which he stated, "We will go to your home... install it for a price affordable to you."

When confronted by the investigator posing as a customer, Sales gave him his business card and said he also did installations. When the investigator identified himself, Sales denied that he did installations and said he only fabricated kitchen countertops, shower walls, barbeque pits, fireplaces and bar tops. His shop, at the time, had approximately 20 employees working on various types of countertops. When the investigator showed Sales the advertisement, he confirmed it was his and was immediately issued a criminal citation for *advertising without a license*.

Javier Rodriguez of Reno bragged that he could do painting, wood floors, carpentry, pavers and concrete. He was so excited when a NSCB investigator, posing as a

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homeowner, called him that he showed up three hours early, but at the wrong home. The investigator had to wave Rodriguez to the right house, where he was issued a criminal citation for *contracting without a license*, after providing a painting bid for \$950, a \$700 bid to install wood floors and a paver patio bid for \$2,200.

Joseph Pinkerton, dba PDI, apparently didn't learn his lesson when he provided a \$2,826 painting bid to a NSCB investigator. The unlicensed Reno resident was cited on a prior instance of *contracting without a license*, and the investigator made note of Pinkerton's second offense.

Ofelio Ramos of Reno was advertising on a business card that he could do pavers, concrete, sprinklers, fences, etc. He gave a NSCB investigator a \$3,100 bid to install patio pavers and was given a criminal citation for *contracting without a license*.

Tracy Atchison, dba Tracy's Painting, proudly said he had 40 years of painting experience. He submitted a \$1,700 painting bid to a NSCB investigator and was quickly issued a criminal citation for *contracting without a license*. When asked why, with so many years of experience, he never got his license, Atchison replied that his finances weren't so good. The citation just made his finances even worse.

“These stings should serve as a warning that the NSCB is serious about cracking down on unlicensed contractors,” said Margi Grein, Executive Officer for the Board.

“Consumers should not be taken in by promises of cheap work performed by unlicensed contractors. In reality it may cost more, and the consumer is left with little or no protection.”

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Contracting without a license in Nevada is a misdemeanor for the first offense, a gross misdemeanor for the second offense and a Class E felony for the third offense.

Homeowners who use unlicensed contractors are not eligible for the Residential Recovery Fund, and by law their contracts are null and void.

The NSCB urges consumers to follow these simple tips when dealing with a contractor:

- **Hire only licensed contractors. Ask to see their NSCB license.**
- **Don't rush into decisions or hire someone without checking out potential contractors.**
- **Be especially wary when approached by someone offering door-to-door home improvements.**
- **Verify the contractor's license by checking online at: www.nscb.state.nv.us or calling: (702) 486-1100 in Southern Nevada, or (775) 688-1141 in Northern Nevada.**
- **Ensure the contractor is properly licensed for the work you want done on your home.**
- **Limit your down payment or deposit to 10 percent of the total contract.**
- **Don't pay cash without obtaining signed receipts, and don't let the payments get ahead of the work.**

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