



# NSCB News Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**CONSUMER ALERT****CONTRACTORS BOARD WARNS RENO/SPARKS HOMEOWNERS OF  
UNLICENSED CONTRACTOR WITH LARGE SALES FORCE**

**RENO, Nev.** – The Nevada State Contractors Board (NSCB) is issuing a consumer alert to all northern Nevada residents of an unlicensed contractor, Horton Home Improvement, LLC, in the Reno/Sparks area. The unlicensed contractor is known to have a large sales team, reportedly 50 or more representatives, soliciting home improvement services, many of which require a contractor's license, to homeowners.

While there are no reports of scams or fraudulent activities at this time, Horton Home Improvement, LLC, has been cited by the Board for allegedly contracting without a license, bidding work for trades that require a contractor's license, such as siding and concrete. Their advertisement states they can assist you with "All Your Home Improvement Needs," highlighting services of "Roofing, Siding, Painting, Windows, Doors, Solar, Concrete, and more." Each of these trade services being advertised require a contractor's license, which the public may not realize.

NSCB reminds homeowners that when they contract with an unlicensed contractor, they lose many of the protections in place if something were to go wrong.

"Of utmost importance is the safety and welfare of the public," stated NSCB Executive Officer Margi Grein. "With unlicensed contractors, homeowners assume greater liabilities and risks, while losing their protections for recourse in the event something goes wrong."

Homeowners seeking contractors for home improvement services are encouraged to remember the following:

- Always hire a licensed contractor.
- Homeowners who hire unlicensed contractors are not eligible for the Residential Recovery Fund, which may award financial recourse up to \$35,000 if damages are incurred during the project.
- NSCB is limited in its ability to assist homeowners with correcting workmanship issues if an unlicensed contractor was hired.

- Unlicensed contractors have not passed trade and law exams, demonstrated financial responsibility, and are not required to carry worker's compensation insurance, which are all required of licensed contractors in Nevada.
- Always contact the Board with any questions or concerns *prior to* hiring a contractor. The Board can provide information on a contractor's license status, what classification of contractor's license may be required for a project, and address any other questions homeowner's may have.

Homeowners should report all suspicious activity or unlicensed contracting activity to **NSCB's Unlicensed Contractor Hotline: (775) 850-7838 or (702) 486-1160.**

NSCB encourages consumers looking for contractors to perform work to follow these ten tips:

1. Only hire licensed contractors.
2. Check the contractor's license number by utilizing our Online Contractor Search at [www.nscb.nv.gov](http://www.nscb.nv.gov)
3. Get three references and review past work.
4. Get at least three bids.
5. Get a written contract and do not sign anything until you completely understand the terms.
6. For pool contracts, pay 10% down or \$1,000 - whichever is less, if a deposit is required.
7. Don't let payments get ahead of the work. Keep a record of all payments.
8. Don't make a final payment until you are satisfied with the job.
9. Don't pay cash.
10. Keep a job file of all papers relating to your project.

Additional information for consumers is available on NSCB's website at [www.nscb.nv.gov](http://www.nscb.nv.gov)

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MEDIA NOTE: The attached .jpg is Horton Home Improvement, LLC's advertisement and is for media use only.