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Elegant Kitchen & Bath Owner Pleas Guilty To Diversion of Funds



Keith Duane Laudensack, dba Elegant Kitchen & Bath, Inc., license number 59210 (Carpentry), based out of Las Vegas, NV, plead guilty in District Court on Jan. 8, 2007, to two felony counts of *diversion of funds*. He had previously plead guilty in Justice Court to *contracting without a license*. Formal sentencing on the felony cases is scheduled for March 5, 2007, in Las Vegas District Court, Dept. 8.

Laudensack, in exchange for a recommendation of probation, has agreed to pay restitution to all homeowners. On Oct. 18, 2006, the Nevada State Contractors Board paid \$399,991.83 on 33 claims against Elegant Kitchen & Bath, Inc., whose license was revoked in September 2006.

Homeowners who use the services of a revoked or suspended contractor are not eligible for recovery of their damages through the Residential Recovery Fund. The NSCB urges the public to hire only licensed contractors in good standing with the Board. Consumers can verify contractors' licenses and obtain helpful tips for working with contractors by calling (775) 688-1141 in Northern Nevada, or (702) 486-1100 in

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Southern Nevada. Licenses can be verified 24 hours a day by logging on to www.nscb.state.nv.us.

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

- **Hire only licensed contractors. Ask to see the license.**
- **Don't rush into decisions or hire without checking out potential contractors.**
- **Be especially wary when approached by someone offering home improvements door-to door.**
- **Verify the contractor's licensed by checking online at www.nscb.state.nv.us or via automated phone service at (702) 486-1100 (Southern Nevada), or (775) 688-1141 (Northern Nevada).**
- **Ensure the contractor is properly licensed for the work you want done on your home.**
- **Limit the amount of 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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