

Tips for Hiring a Contractor

- *Before you hire a contractor, ask to see the state-issued license. Then verify the license number with DBPR and check for complaints.*
- *A Business Tax Receipt (formally occupational license) does not qualify an individual to act as a contractor.*
- *Registration with the Division of Corporation as an Inc. or LLC does not qualify an individual or entity to act as a contractor.*
- *Get written estimates from several licensed contractors. Estimates should include: specific work description, materials involved, time frame, and total cost.*
- *Beware of false claims: Contractors stating they are the fastest or cheapest. Base your choice of Contractors experience and expertise. Ask for references.*
- *Check with your local Building Department for any local license requirements.*

Did You Know?

- According to Florida Statue 455.228 if you hire an unlicensed person, the Dept. of Business & Professional Regulation (DBPR) may issue a cease and desist order and take you to Circuit Court which has the authority to impose a civil penalty up to \$5,000 for aiding and abetting unlicensed activity.
- If you pull a permit for an unlicensed contractor, you are held responsible for the work not the unlicensed person.

Homeowners Be Aware!!

Each year our residents lose money to unlicensed individuals and craftsmen posing as contractors.

Did You Know?

- There is no such thing as a “jack-of-all trades” or “handyman” that does not require licensure.
- You can be held liable for injury of individuals working on your property if the unlicensed person(s) has no insurance including the unlicensed person’s injuries.

Warning signs a Contractor May not be Licensed

They target the uninformed and inexperienced, as well as the elderly.

They want all or most of the money up front. They may ask for cash or checks to individuals.

They try to convince you a permit is not necessary or that its cheaper if you obtain it yourself.