



Contractor Licensing

FIND OUT BEFORE
YOU LOSE OUT!

ARE YOU CONSIDERING REMODELING YOUR HOME, INSTALLING A POOL OR POOL CAGE, BUILDING AN ADDITION, HAVING MECHANICAL, ELECTRICAL OR PLUMBING WORK DONE?

Then you need a licensed contractor

Article III Chapter 22 of the Code of Laws and Ordinances for Collier County and Chapter 489 of the Florida Statutes require that contractors be licensed. The Collier County Building Review and Permitting Division Contractor Licensing Section regulates licensed contractors and prosecutes unlicensed contractors. The Contractor Licensing Section can inform you whether your potential contractor is licensed and will investigate any complaint you may have against a contractor.

UNLICENSED CONTRACTOR EARLY WARNING SIGNS:

- ⚠ **Contractor displays only an occupational license.** In order to lawfully engage in contracting, a contractor must be State of Florida or Collier County certified. Ask to see the contractor's certificate of competency issued by the state or Collier County.
- ⚠ **The contractor is only willing to work on weekends or after hours.** This is often a sign that the person is an employee who is moonlighting without a license. Licensed Contractors are fulltime professionals.
- ⚠ **A large down payment is requested before work begins.** Payments should only be for a part of the work. In order to be licensed, contractors must demonstrate sufficient financial ability to perform the type of project for which the license is issued.
- ⚠ **Many requests for money during early phases of construction.** As stated above, the contractor should be solvent.
- ⚠ **You are asked to obtain the permit.** A licensed contractor who is in good standing will always obtain the permit; unlicensed contractors cannot pull permits.
- ⚠ **Verbal contract only; contractor is not willing to put all terms in writing.** This is always a sign of potential trouble.

- ⚠ **The contractor does not have proof of insurance.** Licensed contractors must have general liability and workers' compensation insurance in effect at all times.
- ⚠ **You are informed that the job does not require a permit or an inspection.** Check with your local building official. Almost all projects require a permit and an inspection. For jobs requiring a permit, make sure the contractor asks you to sign the **"Notice of Commencement"**.
- ⚠ **Someone other than the person or company contracting to do the work obtains the permit.** As previously stated, a licensed contractor who is in good standing will obtain the permit.
- ⚠ **You are asked to make your check payable to an individual's name (it should be made payable to a company), or asked to make payment in cash or to make the check payable to "cash".** Licensed contractors will almost always have a separate business account.
- ⚠ **Newspaper, advertising flyer or yellow page ads where only the telephone number appears and there is not a business address.** Licensed contractors are required to include their certificate of competency license number in all advertising. (This will be a 5-digit number as opposed to a 6-digit number issued by the State)
- ⚠ **No certificate of competency license number on the vehicle, business cards, contracts, newspaper, advertising flyer or yellow page ads.** As stated above, a licensed contractor is proud to be licensed and will want that fact known.



The biggest protection against unsafe, faulty construction work is to make sure the contractor you hire has a license from either Collier County or the State of Florida. By using licensed contractors you can save yourself time, worry and money, and feel safe from injury. You can also help by notifying the Contractor Licensing Section of unlicensed contractor activity by calling (239) 252-2431.

**A Public information Service provided by
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