

Am I getting a SQUARE DEAL?

CAUTION

Unlicensed Contracting in the state of Florida is a real problem. Every year, fraudulent actions of unlicensed contractors cost homeowners millions in damages, legal costs, and reconstruction. By taking this risk, you could be entering into years of heartache over what was supposed to be an easy job. Learn the tricks to spotting a crook.

TIPS FOR HIRING A LICENSED CONTRACTOR



Ask to see their ID and Contractor's License. A Business License is NOT a contractor's license.



Trust but verify-check the license number on State and Local sites to ensure they can do the work and to read any complaint history:

- MyFloridaLicense.com
- Collier County Contractor Licensing
- cvportal.colliercountyfl.gov



Once you've found YOUR licensed contractor, ensure they have General Liability and Worker's Compensation Insurance. They are required by law to have it - without it, you could be stuck with the bill if someone is injured on the job, or even sued.



Don't simply take the lowest bid. An abnormally low bid could lead to trouble later on. Remember-If it's too good to be true, it often is!



Don't pay more than 1/2 down at a time and NEVER ever pay in cash.



Schedule payments at various stages of completion so you're not paying for work that hasn't been finished yet or isn't to your liking.

Timeframes may shift due to supply shortages.



Keep records of all paperwork, include quotes from the contractor and receipts for completed work along with any photos taken.

This could mean the difference in making sure you aren't held liable for faulty work!



Once you're happy with the quote, get job details, costs, and payment schedule in writing before signing a contract.



REMEMBER: IT'S NOT UNLICENSED, IT'S THEFT!

Marco Island Building Services: (239) 389-5059
1310 San Marco Road - Suite B

Collier County Contractor Licensing
(239) 252-2431

Refer to Florida State Statutes: 489.128 and 489.532, 713.02(7), 768.0425, 553.84, 455.228, 489.13, 489.127(2), and 501.204 for Loss of contractor's contract rights, Loss of lien and bond rights, Treble damages, Damages for violation of building code, administrative sanctions, Criminal penalties, Cause of action for "unfair trade practice", and possible action for "disgorgement" per case law.