

Home Improvement

SCAMS

don't fall for them!

When to be skeptical

- The person at your door notices that your roof (or another area on your house that is hard to check) needs repair. He may trick you into signing a contract without disclosing all the charges.
- He says he just finished work on your neighbor's house and has just enough materials to do repair work on yours. He might say he can give you a better bargain if you let him do the work today since he has the supplies now.
- The contractor is pressuring you to accept an offer.

Finding a contractor

- Take your time. Don't let the contractor rush your decision.
- Do your research. Talk to your friends who used this contractor.
- Opt for a local, well-established contractor.
- Compare bids and services and get them in writing.
- Is the contractor licensed, bonded and insured?
- Contact the Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division and the Better Business Bureau for complaint information on contractors you are considering.

Before signing the contract

- Get a written contract. Indiana law requires home improvement contracts exceeding \$150 to be in writing.
- Never pay for the entire project before the work begins. Do not pay more than 1/3 of the total cost as a down payment.

Resources

This information is pulled from The Consumer Protection Division of the Indiana Attorney General's Office at www.IndianaConsumer.com.

If you have questions or for more information regarding home improvement scams, or other appropriate consumer issues, visit the Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division at www.IndianaConsumer.com.



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