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Warning Signs that a Contractor is Unlicensed

**BEFORE YOU HIRE,
READ
THIS FLYER**



Do not give a deposit or sign a contract until you have confirmed that the contractor is licensed. Ask the contractor to leave the contract with you and come back the next day. This gives you the time to look it over without being pressured or intimidated. Also, you can contact the Building Office if you suspect a possible problem. The following are warning signs that a contractor may be unlicensed:

-  Unlicensed contractors may request a large down payment in cash, or a check made out to cash prior to doing any work. They may even offer to drive you to the bank to obtain these funds.
-  Unlicensed contractors will ask you to obtain the permit or advise you that you don't need one. If you call the Osceola County Building Office, the staff will be more than happy to advise you whether or not a permit is required for your particular job.
-  Unlicensed contractors often will not provide the consumer with a written contract or guarantee.
-  Unlicensed contractors will not have a valid contractor's number on their contracts or advertisements.
-  Unlicensed contractors often want to do the construction work on weekends.
-  Unlicensed contractors may promise you a large discount if you sign up immediately.
-  Beware of a contractor who claims to have just completed a job down the street and has materials left over from that job who offers to do the work cheap.
-  Beware if a contractor has a post office address with no street address, or gives a local motel as his address.
-  Beware of people wanting to do a free home inspection. Always verify that they are a licensed contractor prior to allowing them to do such inspections.
-  Beware of people soliciting to do a roof repair, asphalt or texture coating of driveways.
-  Unlicensed contractors usually do not carry general liability or worker's compensation insurance.
-  Unlicensed contractors normally target the elderly, uninformed, young and inexperienced.
-  Unlicensed contractors normally use unmarked vans or trucks.

Section 455.227 (1)(j), Florida Statutes prohibits any person from aiding, assisting, procuring, employing or advising any unlicensed person or entity. Individuals who aid unlicensed persons may face fines up to \$5,000.

If you have further questions, please contact the Building Department at (386) 506-5602 before starting any work to determine if a permit is required. The City of Port Orange is dedicated to maintaining the safety, health and welfare of the citizens of Port Orange. www.port-orange.org

