

Tips for Hiring a Contractor

- Before you hire a contractor, ask to see the state-issued license. Also, verify the license number with DBPR and check for any complaints.
- An occupational license does not qualify an individual to act as a contractor.
- Being registered with the Division of Corporations as an Inc. or LLC does not qualify an individual or company to act as a contractor.
- Get a written estimate from several licensed contractors. Make sure the estimate includes the work the contractor will do, the materials involved, the completion date and total cost.
- Beware of contractors who claim to be the fastest or the cheapest. Hiring them could result in poor workmanship, inferior materials or unfinished jobs.
- Check with your local building department for any local license requirements.

Contact DBPR

Customer Contact Center: 850-487-1395

Report Unlicensed Activity: 866-532-1440

www.MyFloridaLicense.com

For answers to other questions or for assistance following a disaster or emergency, contact the following:

- American Red Cross: 1.800.HELP.NOW (1.800.435.7669)
- Attorney General's Price Gouging Hotline 1.800.646.0444
- Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
Consumer Tips for Natural Disasters 1.800.HELP.FLA
(1.800.435.7352)
- Department of Elder Affairs 1.800.96.ELDER (1.800.963.5337)
- Department of Financial Services Insurance Claim Hotline
1.800.22.STORM (1.800.227.8676)
- Florida Emergency Information Line 24-hour Hotline (FEIL)
1.800.342.3557 (This number is only operational during an
emergency event)

Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation (DBPR) Contractor Tips



Unlicensed Construction Activity Scams

While hiring an unlicensed contractor may provide a quick fix in the short term, it could result in many serious and lasting consequences, including further damage to your property. The Department of Business and Professional Regulation (DBPR) receives varying cases of alleged unlicensed construction activity including those alleging substandard work not up to building code, instances of homeowners paying for a job that is not completed as well as contractors abandoning the project.

By hiring a licensed contractor, you will have peace of mind knowing that the project will be done by someone who has taken the time to acquire the appropriate education and the proper workers' compensation and/or liability insurance and who possesses the necessary experience.



Construction Trades Requiring a State License

Air-Conditioning
Building Contractor
Electrician
General Contractor
Home Inspection
Mold-Related Services

Plumber
Pool/Spa
Residential Contractor
Roofer
Sheet Metal
Solar

Construction Trades Not Requiring a State License

Cabinet Installation
Carpentry
Carpet Cleaning
Cleaning Swimming Pools
Drywall/Sheetrock
Flooring

Installing Above-Ground Pools
Masonry
Painting
Paving
Tree Trimming and Removal

How to Report Unlicensed Activity

Unlicensed activity occurs when an individual offers to perform or performs services that require a state license and the individual does not hold the required license.

Floridians are asked to report any suspected unlicensed activity to DBPR by emailing ULA@MyFloridaLicense.com or calling the Unlicensed Activity Hotline at 1 (866) 532-1440.

Warning Signs a Contractor May Not Be Licensed

Unlicensed contractors often target the uninformed and inexperienced, as well as the elderly.

No license number in advertisement or posting. By law, contractors licensed by DBPR must include their license number in all advertising.

They want all or most of the money up front and will only accept cash. They may also want you to write the check to them individually or to "cash".

They give a post office box address instead of a street address.

They show up in unmarked vehicles offering to do work and often have out-of-state tags.

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

