

You have a home improvement or remodeling project you want to get underway, but are you ready to hire a contractor? Are you willing to consider the steps necessary to hire a reputable one? Will your contractor measure up?

This brochure provides information you should know before hiring a contractor. Since 1941, NSCB has been protecting consumers. Based on its years of experience, NSCB is providing this information to inform you of things to be aware of when hiring a contractor.

About the Board

The Nevada State Contractors Board (NSCB) governs contractor licensing for the State's construction industry. Contact us for information you need about a contractor's license and bond.

The Board also has important consumer information and complaint forms that can be downloaded or sent to you by calling one of the Board's offices.

Get information from NSCB before you:

- Hire a contractor.
- Sign a contract.
- Pay for work and repairs.

Visit our website to learn more about the Residential Recovery Fund.



www.nscb.nv.gov



Southern Nevada Office
2310 Corporate Circle, Ste. 200
Henderson, NV 89074
Phone: 702-486-1100
Fax: 702-486-1190

Northern Nevada Office
9670 Gateway Drive, Ste. 100
Reno, NV 89521
Phone: 775-688-1141
Fax: 775-688-1271

If you believe the contractor you hired has performed substandard work, you may file a complaint with NSCB. Complaint forms can be downloaded from our website at: www.nscb.nv.gov or obtained at one of our offices.



What You Should Know

A Senior's Guide to Hiring a Contractor



Measure up...use licensed contractors.





Common Red Flags



Before You Hire a Contractor:

Take steps to make sure you are hiring a contractor in good standing:

- Hire only licensed contractors.
- Ask for a contractor's NSCB license number and verify it online at www.nscb.nv.gov or call one of our offices.
- Take your time before you make a decision about hiring a contractor.
- Get at least three bids and check references.
- Read the Homeowner's Bill of Rights available online at: www.nscb.nv.gov or contact the Nevada State Contractors Board (NSCB) for a copy.

Don't Become a Victim

Unfortunately, people don't always appear as they seem. Be aware of these red flags when you are interacting with a contractor:

- **Be Cautious of Door-to-Door Solicitations**
when someone comes to your home offering to perform services for a reduced price.
- **Don't Enter In To Verbal Agreements**
when a contractor says that a written contract is unnecessary.
- **Don't Give In To High-Pressure Sales**
when a contractor pushes for an immediate decision about work, and does not allow time for you to get competitive bids, verify their license or review references; you should decline the bid no matter how good it sounds.
- **Refuse Any Demand for Cash**
when a contractor insists on cash payments or offers to drive you to the bank to withdraw funds.
- **Never Agree To A Contractor's Demand For A Large Down Payment**
to cover supplies and pay workers. On most types of contracts, it is a good rule of thumb not to pay more than 10 percent down and not let payments get ahead of the work.



What to Do About Payments:

- Don't pay in cash.
- Include a payment schedule in your written contract.
- Don't let the payments get ahead of the work.
- If you have questions, call the Nevada State Contractors Board.
- Obtain receipts for payments.
- Pay by check or credit card.
- Request lien releases after each phase of the project is complete.