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Unlicensed Carpet Contractor Lays The Ground Work For NSCB Sting

An unlicensed carpet installer advertising on Craigslist apparently hasn't gotten the message that he needs to be licensed by the Nevada State Contractors Board. He was recently issued a criminal citation for *contracting and advertising without a license*, when he continued to run his advertisement in the online publication.

Cliff Thurston, dba Carpet Installer Floor Installer, was issued the NSCB citation to appear in Henderson Justice Court on Sept. 22, 2010. He submitted a \$1,118 bid to a NSCB investigator for the installation of carpet in a North Las Vegas home. Thurston was previously cited for *unlawful advertising* in 2005.

Contracting without a license in Nevada is a misdemeanor for the first offense, a gross misdemeanor for the second offense and a Class E felony for the third offense.

"It is important for consumers to check the license status of any company they wish to hire at our website: www.nscb.state.nv.us," Marge Grein, Executive Officer of the NSCB, says. "Enforcement stings like this are conducted by NSCB investigators on a continuous basis and help rid our neighborhoods of unscrupulous contractors."

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The NSCB urges consumers to follow these simple tips when dealing with a contractor:

- **Hire only licensed contractors. Ask to see their NSCB license.**
- **Don't rush into decisions or hire someone without checking out potential contractors.**
- **Be especially wary when approached by someone offering door-to-door home improvements.**
- **Verify the contractor's license by checking online at: www.nscb.state.nv.us or calling: (702) 486-1100 in Southern Nevada, or (775) 688-1141 in Northern Nevada.**
- **Ensure the contractor is properly licensed for the work you want done on your home.**
- **Limit your down payment or deposit to 10 percent of the total contract.**
- **Don't pay cash without obtaining signed receipts, and don't let the payments get ahead of the work.**

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