



ARIZONA REGISTRAR OF CONTRACTORS



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News Release

ROC Warns Homeowners to Watch Out For Unlicensed Contractor Scams

A recent microburst caused significant property damage around 40th Street to Tatum, and from Greenway to Bell Road. After storms or other disasters damage property, contractor scam artists often seek to take advantage of vulnerable populations. These scam artists frequently solicit door-to-door, offering to do work at an unbeatable price with leftover material. They often press for cash payments before beginning any work.

State law establishes a Class 1 Misdemeanor for a person (1) advertising to perform services that require a contractor's license, and/or (2) acting in the capacity of a contractor without a license. Hiring licensed contractors provides many protections to property owners. For example, licensed contractors must pass a trade exam and demonstrate adequate experience to perform the construction authorized by their license. Licensed contractors also must possess insurance and bonds that provide financial protection if an accident occurs, or the work doesn't meet minimum construction standards.

The Registrar of Contractors has been actively working in this area to protect property owners from these types of scams.

The Registrar of Contractors advises property owners to protect themselves by:

- Reviewing the contractor's license record at (<http://www.azroc.gov/forms/contractorsearch.html>).
- Verifying that the person is an authorized representative of the licensed contractor by calling the contractor's number listed on the ROC license record.
- Asking for written estimates from at least three contractors.
- Requesting a list of references and checking them.
- Making sure the scope of the project, the price, the responsibility to obtain building permits, and any other relevant terms are spelled out in a written contract.
- Never paying in cash, making checks payable to the licensed contractor (not an individual), and not allowing payments to get ahead of the work.
- Avoiding contractors who require large upfront payments.
- Never making a hurried decision.

Other tips about hiring qualified contractors can be found at www.azroc.gov.

For more information, or to request an interview with Director Mundell, contact Tyler Palmer, Chief of Staff for the Arizona Registrar of Contractors at (602) 771-6710.

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