

e-News

Release

Nevada State Contractors Board

www.nscb.state.nv.us



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NEVADA STATE CONTRACTORS BOARD HOMEOWNER ADVISORY

The Nevada State Contractors Board is advising homeowners to follow simple precautionary steps when hiring contractors. First and foremost, the Board recommends that homeowners only hire contractors licensed with the State of Nevada. A licensed contractor will have a 5-digit number that can be easily verified by either going on-line to do a license search at: **www.nscb.state.nv.us** or by calling (702) 486-1100 in Southern Nevada or (775) 688-1141 in Northern Nevada to ask for assistance.

If cash is paid, have the contractor provide a written receipt. Pay with checks (either personal or a cashier's check), so as to document transactions. Make sure your contractor provides you with *lien releases*. By law, if subcontractors are used on a project and they are not paid by the general contractor you hired, a subcontractor can legally seek payment from the homeowner by putting a lien on the property.

Only pay for work that is performed, or materials supplied for each phase of the project.

Do not let payments exceed, or get ahead of the work performed.

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Get at least three bids from licensed contractors before hiring someone. Keep a job file on your project, where all important documents (the contract, cancelled checks, design plans, etc.) can be kept for quick reference. Stick to the original price negotiated. If changes are made, either at the homeowner or contractor's suggestion, *get the change order in writing*, and put this in your job file.

Contacting 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. If you are approached by an unlicensed contractor, please contact the Nevada State Contractors Board by calling our Unlicensed Contractor Hotline at: (702) 486-1160 in Southern Nevada, or (775) 850-7838 in Northern Nevada.

The Nevada State Contractors Board advises homeowners not to use unlicensed contractors because their work is generally poor quality, they are often uninsured and may not maintain workman's compensation coverage for their employees, and the homeowner may be liable for all injuries to workers. Homeowners who use unlicensed contractors are not eligible for the Residential Recovery Fund, and by law their contracts are null and void.

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