



SCAM ALERT

Scam: Home Improvement Projects Target: All Seniors

Home improvement scams can lead to additional costs, delays in project completion, subpar work and even legal problems! Scam artists target seniors and often use high pressure tactics to sell unnecessary and overpriced contracts for home improvements and if you refuse to pay, they threaten to take legal action including lawsuits and foreclosure on your home.

Scam Artists deceive seniors with deceptive home improvement offers!

Unscrupulous contractors often employ telephone calls, flyers and go door-to-door to make sales. An effective sales person or a good advertisement is not proof that a contractor or handyman does quality work.

The following are tips to help protect your interests:

- Check with friends, relatives or neighbors who have had home improvement work.
- Check out a contractor's reputation from online rating sites you trust.
- Make sure your contractor is licensed and in good standing with the Department of Consumer Affairs Contractors State License Board at www.cslb.ca.gov.
- Obtain at least three written estimates from three different contractors.
- Keep in mind the lowest bidder may not be the best choice.
- Never do business with someone who pressures you for an immediate decision.
- Do not share the amount you were quoted with another company.
- Refuse requests for cash only, to pay everything up front, or to use their lender.

**If you think you may be a victim of a scam, contact
San Bernardino County Adult Protective Services (APS) at
877-565-2020, or your local police department.**