

## DON'T GET NAILED BY A SCAM ARTIST!

**D**on't get nailed by an unscrupulous or unlicensed contractor. Before you hire a contractor or sign a contract for property repair, the California Contractors State License Board offers the following advice:

- When repairing disaster damage, beware of unscrupulous or unlicensed contractors.
- Don't rush into repairs, no matter how badly they're needed.
- Don't just hire the first contractor who comes along.
- Don't be victimized by someone making a door-to-door presentation, offering to do repair jobs or home improvement on the spot, and requiring a cash deposit.
- Even on the smallest job, you must get proof that the person you are dealing with has a contractor's license in the trade for which you expect to have the work done.
- Get a written contract that contains all the details of the job to be performed.

## HIRE A LICENSED CONTRACTOR

**D**eal only with licensed contractors. Ask to see the contractor's "pocket license," together with other identification. If the person claims to be representing a contractor, but can't show you a contractor's license or home improvement salesperson registration card, call the contractor and find out if the person is authorized to act on behalf of the contractor.

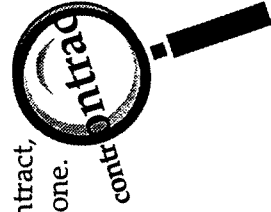
**Get the contractor's license number** and call the CSLB's toll-free automated telephone number, 1-800-321-2752, to verify that the license is valid, or log onto the Internet at [www.cslb.ca.gov](http://www.cslb.ca.gov).

**Get at least three bids**, and check references of other work the contractor has done in your area.

## GET IT IN WRITING

**G**et a written contract, and don't sign *anything* until you fully understand the terms.

Remember, if it's in the contract, you can expect to have it done. If it's not there, even with a verbal promise, you may not get what you think you're paying for.



## AVOID PAYMENT PITFALLS

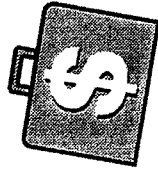
**B**y law, a down payment on a home improvement contract cannot exceed 10 percent of the contract price—or \$1,000—whichever is less.

Don't let payments get ahead of the work.

Keep records of payments.

Don't pay cash.

Don't make final payment until you're satisfied with the job *and* the building department has signed off on it.



*Whether your home or property has been damaged by fire, flood, or earthquake, the Contractors State License Board can help you get the repairs done right!*

*Call 1-800-321-2752 to check a contractor's license or get further information on home and property repairs.*

**FOR MORE  
INFORMATION**

The following CSLB publications  
can help you avoid problems  
before they occur:

*What You Should Know  
Before You Hire a Contractor*  
provides information about hiring  
and working with contractors.

*Home Improvement Contracts:  
Putting the Pieces Together*  
provides answers about the legal  
requirements of home improvement  
contractors.

For a free copy of these publications  
call 1-800-321-2752,  
or log onto the Internet at  
[www.cslb.ca.gov](http://www.cslb.ca.gov).



**Contractors  
State License Board**  
P.O. Box 26000  
Sacramento, CA 95826  
[www.cslb.ca.gov](http://www.cslb.ca.gov)

*Keep these numbers  
and call the  
Contractors State  
License Board  
for help . . .*



INFORMATION FOR  
DISASTER VICTIMS ONLY:

1-800-962-1125

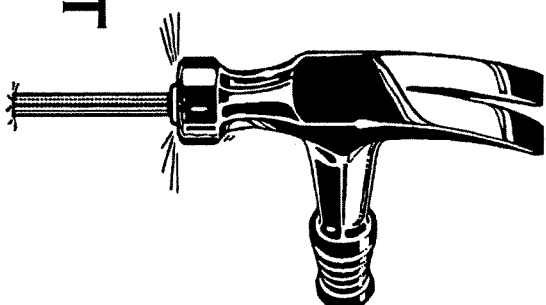
TO CHECK ON A  
CONTRACTOR'S LICENSE:

1-800-321-2752

TO ORDER PUBLICATIONS:

1-800-321-2752

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disaster*  
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