

# Home Improvement Scams



It's common for dubious contractors to come knocking on homeowner's doors. And while some legitimate businesses still go door-to-door, many of these "fix-it" folks are anything but, and actually do damage to your checkbook.

## How these scams work:

- 🔧 Scammers look for opportunity like the passing of a bad storm that causes damage, to solicit "business" door-to-door.
- 🔧 They will also take advantage of times when they expect many people are home.
- 🔧 They'll often say that they were "already working in the area" or claim to have "extra materials" they can use on a project for you.
- 🔧 They will claim that today's rate will not be the same tomorrow.
- 🔧 They will ask for payment up front.

## How these scams work:

- 🔧 Scammers will pressure you to commit right away for great pricing to get you to act before you have a chance to think things through.
- 🔧 Shady contractors may offer financing – which could put you into a high interest rate loan, a home equity loan, or a deal where the lender pays the contractor directly, leaving little incentive for them to finish.

## What you can do:

- 🔧 Take time to consider your options.
- 🔧 Get two or three bids (with references) and compare them before agreeing to any work.
- 🔧 Get a written contract.
- 🔧 Expect to make an upfront deposit, but typically no more than a third of the total estimate, and use a credit card, check, or arrange financing yourself.