



The Contractors State License Board, which operates under the umbrella of the California Department of Consumer Affairs, licenses and regulates California's 300,000 contractors, and is regarded as one of the leading consumer protection agencies in the United States.

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[www.cslb.ca.gov](http://www.cslb.ca.gov)

**CheckTheLicenseFirst.com**

## ***GUARD AGAINST TRAVELING "CONTRACTOR" SCAMS***

Unfortunately, scam artists often target homeowners, particularly the elderly, which can lead to property damage and/or financial loss.

Traveling "contractors" pose as door-to-door home repair contractors and defraud homeowners with painting, roofing, fencing, landscaping, and paving scams. Not every door-to-door solicitor operates this way, however to protect yourself from those that do become familiar with their common tactics.

### **The Suspects**

- Often solicit door-to-door
- Come across as friendly, but use high-pressure or scare tactics
- Are reluctant to give a price upfront or provide a written contract, and increase the price after the project is started or completed
- Demand payments in cash or immediately cash checks (sometimes changing the amount)
- Use toll-free telephone numbers instead of local numbers
- Use P.O. boxes instead of actual street addresses
- Target the vulnerable, especially the elderly and immigrants
- Offer complimentary inspections and then offer to fix "problems"
- Are usually unlicensed and uninsured, putting you at risk if they get hurt on your property

### **The Scams**

- Claim they have leftover material from another job at a reduced price
- Claim they have done work for your neighbor
- Claim they will use a "sealant," but actually apply a useless, water liquid that they spray on roofs, fences, driveways
- Push new wood shakes under old ones and apply useless oil to "repair" a roof
- Charge "by the can" for painting and then exaggerate the amount used

### **To Avoid Being Scammed**

- Do your research before hiring someone who solicits for jobs at your front door
- Check to see if the contractor is licensed using the "Instant License Check" feature at [www.cslb.ca.gov](http://www.cslb.ca.gov) or call 800-321-CSLB (2752)
- Be suspicious if the person wants to start work immediately and will not provide a written contract

- Be aware that a contractor must notify you that you have three business days to cancel a signed contract

Report any suspicious home improvement activity in your neighborhood to CSLB or local law enforcement.

To report suspicious activity to CSLB complete a lead referral form at [www.cslb.ca.gov/LeadForm](http://www.cslb.ca.gov/LeadForm) or call:

CSLB Northern California: (916) 255-2924

CSLB Central California: (559) 490-0580

CSLB Southern California: (562) 345-7600