

# Hire a Florida Licensed Professional

## Dangers of Hiring Unlicensed Workers

**Poor qualifications.** Unlicensed individuals have not demonstrated the education, insurance, or qualification required of a licensed contractor. This can leave you with poor quality work or unfinished projects, which means you could spend more money hiring another contractor to repair or finish the project.

**Possible criminal background.** Unlicensed individuals often have criminal backgrounds that may include fraud, theft, violent crime, sexual offenses, and substance abuse.

**Likelihood of being the victim of a scam.** Unlicensed individuals often disappear after taking your money, leaving you with very few options to help you get your money back or your work completed.

**No coverage under homeowner's policy.** Most homeowner policies require that work must be done by a licensed contractor and provide no coverage for work that is not.

**Noncompliance with building codes.** Most projects, even small ones, require permits and inspections that unlicensed contractors ignore or are unfamiliar with. If your project isn't permitted or doesn't comply with the building code, you may have to remove or repair the work at your own expense and be subject to fines by local government.



## If an unlicensed contractor offers services to you

- #1 Do not hire the unlicensed individual.
- #2 Keep copies of all information provided by the unlicensed individual (ads, flyers, cards).
- #3 Report the unlicensed person by sending the information to the Department of Business & Professional Regulation.

**Report Unlicensed Activity**  
1.866.532.1440  
[www.MyFloridaLicense.com](http://www.MyFloridaLicense.com)

## Why Hire a Florida Licensed Pro?

### Licensed

You can verify a State of Florida Licensed Contractor at [www.MyFloridaLicense.com](http://www.MyFloridaLicense.com). Ask your contractor for a license number. Always verify the license number!

### Tested

Licensed professionals have proven abilities through testing and certification.

### Trusted

Licensed professionals are required to have proper insurance and liability coverage that protects you! Ask your contractor about it!

***This flyer is not intended to be an endorsement of specific contractors or their work but encourages consumers to always verify licenses and hire only licensed contractors. Check the Department's website to determine what services require a State of Florida certified license as some contractors may hold a local license. Always verify!***

