

Some Helpful Tips to Avoid Being Scammed

- 1). Steer clear of drive-by repairmen. The most notorious scam artists in home repair frauds are those repairmen who cruise neighborhoods and sell their services at your front door. When that happens the first thing you should do is to check to see if they are driving a vehicle with out of state license plates. If they are then you can be sure you are talking to a fly-by-night operator. The license plate check is especially important to prevent the most common ploy: an offer to seal coat your driveway or clean your gutters at bargain prices. A traveling asphalt paving crew may notice your driveway and offer you a low-price to revitalize it. Using a little common sense can help prevent a lot of problems in the future.
- 2). Another way to spot a possible scam is an offer to do the work without a written contract. Without a contract, the original low estimated price may grow to hundreds or even thousands of dollars once the work is completed. The crews will also usually insist on cash as payment but if they do accept a check they will cash it immediately at the nearest branch.
- 3). It is up to YOU the consumer to protect yourselves from these scam artists. Even though you may be eager to have your work done, make sure the work is completed on your terms. Ask the contractor for references and check them before you allow any work to begin.
- 4). Take the contractor's written estimate and tell them you will recontact them. Also, get bids from local established companies and compare prices. If you agree to the written contract advise the contractor you will pay them 50% at the beginning of the project and 50% once the job is completed as written in your contract.

**ABOVE ALL, DO NOT ALLOW THE CONTRACTOR TO
PRESSURE YOU INTO HAVING THE WORK DONE
IMMEDIATELY.**