



CONSTRUCTION
CONTRACTORS
BOARD

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Scam artists blow in with high winds and heavy rain

November in Oregon usually means the beginning of the high winds and heavy rain season. Homeowners whose property is damaged by Mother Nature's fury can be prime targets for unscrupulous thieves. The Oregon Construction Contractors Board (CCB), the state agency that protects consumers and regulates the construction industry in Oregon, has the following advice:

If you need roofs, windows, fences, or patio coverings fixed, or if you've got damaged trees that should be removed, "Stay away from unlicensed contractors," says CCB Enforcement Manager Richard Blank. "Scam artists come out of the woodwork after severe weather to prey on people who are anxious to get their home fixed because more winter weather is on the way."

Legitimate contractors performing home repairs must be properly licensed with the CCB. A license offers financial protection to consumers through the business' CCB bond and insurance and access to the CCB's dispute resolution services.

"Most contractors are honest, skilled, professional business people," says Blank. "But stay away from those who aren't." Consumers should verify a contractor's CCB license at www.ccb.state.or.us, or 503-378-4621 before signing a home repair contract or paying any money.

The CCB advises homeowners to be extra careful of door-to-door repair solicitations, contractors using vehicles with out-of-state license plates and “too-good-to-be-true” bids. It is also important to get a detailed written contract (what will be done and at what price) and to not pay 100 percent of the bill before the repairs are properly completed.

Free consumer publications with helpful tips are available at the CCB’s website and 503-378-4621.

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