



DenverDA

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Consumer Fraud Alert!!!

Door-to-Door Con Artists Are on the Prowl

Like the daffodils that come up in the spring, so too, do “Travelers” - con artists who roll in to town in shiny new pick-up trucks, and peddle door-to-door. They offer fabulous ‘home improvement’ offers, claiming to have “left over” asphalt or roofing materials, and can do the job at a bargain price. The catch is that you *must deal now!*

Travelers, (and those who copy them) usually look for older, more established neighborhoods, or houses in need of repair. They actively target older victims, often canvassing residential areas looking for elders working out in their yards. In exchange for the money, they will perform shoddy or deceptive work; or often, no work at all. Bogus landscape and tree-trimming “companies” also make an appearance about this time of year. Similar to home-improvement cons, other unscrupulous peddlers who solicit door-to-door include magazine sellers, or groups purporting to be legitimate charities. Children can also be part of a charitable scam. Alert neighbors in Denver recently reported youth going door-to-door collecting money for the “troops overseas”.

Door-to-door con artists are seldom violent. All the same, it’s best to keep your garage and other doors locked when working outside. If inside your house, make sure the screen doors are locked before answering the door. Let your neighbors know when you spot questionable solicitors in the vicinity, and call the police. Left unchecked, Travelers who have had earlier success in one neighborhood have been known to return there the following year.

The best advice is to NOT DO BUSINESS WITH DOOR-TO-DOOR SOLICITORS AT ALL! Reputable companies have no need to conduct business door-to-door. In the case of a major home-improvement, it’s always a good idea to get several bids. For information on selecting a contractor, charity or preparing bids, contact the Denver/Boulder Better Business Bureau at www.denverbbb.org

Denver DA’s Fraud Line: 720-913-9179

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Phony debt collectors Harrassing Over-the-phone

Continue to call back

Threaten the loss of the home or jail time if they don't pay up

Represent banks, businesses

Target elderly

Getting rash of calls

scare tactics