



DenverDA

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Consumer Fraud Alert

Beware of Huckster Roofing Contractors

Alleged roofing contractors are going door-to-door offering to repair or replace roofs, then skipping town with the insurance check without doing the work. The scheme employed by these thieves is to seek out homes with weather-related roof damage and then offer to file the insurance claims and negotiate the estimates directly with the insurance adjusters. Once they receive the check from the insurance company, these bogus roofers make off with the money without performing the job. This scam is a variation of the more common door-to-door home improvement scams that usually make an appearance this time of year. In these scams, the solicitor negotiates a “good deal” with the homeowner because he has “left-over materials” from a recent project. In the end, the homeowner is out several thousand dollars for shoddy work or more often, silver paint that has been sprayed on the roof.

When seeking out ANY roofing contractor, always take the following precautions:

1. Never select a roofer or any home-improvement contractor who solicits door-to-door. Reputable companies have no need to do business this way.
2. Contact your insurance company directly. Don't leave the negotiating up to a contractor. Ask your insurance company for a list of qualified roofing contractors, then check the companies' ratings with the Better Business Bureau www.bbb.org
3. Check to see that the roofing contractor is licensed to do business in your municipality. In the City and County of Denver, contractors must be licensed. You can check the status of a contractor by going to the city website at www.denvergov.org and clicking on “Contractor License”.
4. Always get several bids on a home-improvement project, especially for work that is not covered under your homeowner's insurance policy.
5. Never pay the full amount until the work is done to your satisfaction.

If you believe you have been taken in a roofing scam, call the Denver DA Fraud Line at 720-913-9179.

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