

Take Charge Of Your Home Improvement

Hire Only Licensed Contractors. Check a contractor's license number online at www.cslb.ca.gov or by calling (800) 321-CSLB (2752). Verify there are no actions recorded against that license.

Do Your Homework! It's a smart idea to get at least three bids from different contractors.

Ask for References! Get three references from each bidder and take the time to visit and review past work in person if possible.

Get it in Writing! Make sure all project expectations are in writing and only sign the contract if you completely understand the terms. Follow up regarding any manufacturer warranties that may come with the products or fixtures you use.

Are They Covered? Confirm that the contractor has workers' compensation insurance for his or her employees.

How Much Up Front? Never pay more than 10% down or \$1,000, whichever is less. Don't pay in cash and never let payments get ahead of the work.

You're the Boss! It's a good idea to keep a job file of all papers relating to your project, including all payments.

Pay for What You Get! Don't make the final payment until you're satisfied with the job. Final payments mean just that! It's done!

If you have a construction-related complaint, or believe your contractor has violated the Contractors License Law, file a complaint with the Contractors State License Board or call the DCA Consumer Information Center at (800) 952-5210.

<http://www.takechargeca.ca.gov/tips/contractors.pdf>