

Don't Get Nailed by Home Repair Scams

As the seasons change, many homeowners think about repairs, a new roof, driveway sealing, furnace checks. Scammers know this too, and they're showing up with offers that sound good but end badly.

How the Scam Works

- A stranger knocks on your door or leaves a flyer offering cheap, fast repairs, or offer a "today only" discount.

You pay upfront and either:

- They disappear without doing the work or they do a sloppy job that causes more damage.
- They keep coming back asking for more money.

Red Flags to Watch For

- They demand **cash upfront** or pressure you to decide immediately.
- Their vehicle or paperwork has no company name.

How to Stay Safe

- **Don't pay in full upfront.** Reputable contractors may ask for a small deposit, but never the whole amount.
- **Check their license and insurance.** Ask for proof and verify it with your local licensing office.
- **Get multiple estimates.** Don't settle for the first offer at your door.
- **Use trusted sources.** Ask friends, family, or neighbors for contractor recommendations.
- **Get it in writing.** Always have a signed contract that details the work and costs.

Bottom Line

Your home is one of your biggest investments, don't hand it over to strangers with a slick sales pitch. Real contractors don't pressure you, hide their identity, or demand cash up front.

When in doubt, close the door, do your homework, and only hire people you can verify.