

# HOME REPAIR TIPS



**Below are suggestions for avoiding disaster scams and repair fraud.**

- **Be careful of door-to-door solicitations**  
*Especially following a storm or disaster.*
- **Obtain at least three estimates**  
When you request an estimate from a contractor, find out if there is a charge for the estimate – whether or not you decide to use the contractor. Remember, the lowest estimate may not reflect the quality of materials used.
- **Ask for a license or registration**  
Before signing a contract, make sure the roofing contractor is currently registered with the Construction Industries Board or the plumbing, mechanical (heating and air, etc.), or electrical contractor is currently licensed by the Oklahoma Construction Industries Board.
- **Verify the contractor's information**  
Obtain names, addresses, phone numbers, and license or registration numbers. **Verify the license or registration is current** by going to [www.CIB.OK.gov/are-they-licensed](http://www.CIB.OK.gov/are-they-licensed) or call the Oklahoma Construction Industries Board at 405-521-6550.
- **Request references**  
Inquire about similar work performed by the contractor. Ask to see a job in progress and ask for the name and number of a customer who had work done over a year ago.
- **Get a written contract**  
Always obtain a written contract before you allow work to begin on your property. Written contracts may help clarify specific details, such as, the date the work will begin, a detailed description of what work will be done or not done, and a completion date.
- **Request to see the building permit**  
Certain types of home repair or improvements require building permits from your local government. Check with your local licensing and permit department to see if a permit is needed. If it is, make sure the contractor shows you the building permit before you allow work to begin.