



# PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Residents Urged to Choose Contractors Wisely for Home Improvements

Beaumont, CA — As local residents enjoy the summer and continue to take advantage of the reduced building fees that are part of the Beaumont Economic Stimulus Program, the City would like to urge residents to take the time to choose a contractor wisely. Recently, several local residents were scammed by an unlicensed contractor who failed to finish the job after being given money. In incidents such as this, a residents may be contacted at their home and agree to hire a contractor for a home improvement, such as pouring concrete or installing a barbeque or patio. The contractor may ask for money upfront, show up for the first day and start work, leave to get materials, and never return to complete the job. If you have been the victim of a scam, please contact the Beaumont Police Department at (951) 769-8500 and report the incident.

If you are planning on doing home improvements this summer, such as building a patio or installing a pool, it's important to take the time to choose and hire a contractor who can perform work that you'll be satisfied with on terms you've agreed upon in advance. Please follow these useful tips offered by the **Better Business Bureau**:

- All general and specialty contractors are required to hold a valid contractor's license in the license category in which the contractor will be working in order to perform any work over \$500, including both labor and material.
- Obtain bids from at least three licensed contractors. Ask for customer references and, if possible, take a look at work previously completed by the contractor.
- Call the local Better Business Bureau office at (909) 825-7280 for a report on the contractor, or visit their website at [www.bbb.org](http://www.bbb.org).
- Call the Contractor's State License Board at (800) 321-2752 to inquire if a contractor's license is valid, or visit their website at [www.cslb.ca.gov](http://www.cslb.ca.gov).
- It's important that the contractor is licensed and that you don't automatically accept the lowest bid for work. Unlicensed contractors may underbid licensed contractors because they don't have the required contractor's license, a city business license, workers' compensation, and other important insurance and expenses. Unlicensed contractors may have poor workmanship, use inferior materials, and disappear as soon as they are paid, leaving the homeowner with no contact information and no recourse to get their money back.
- Be sure to have a signed contract in place and that you know what you are signing. It should contain: the contractor's name, physical address, and phone number; a written description of all work to be performed, including a detailed description of the kind and quality of materials to be used; a price breakdown for both labor and materials; start and finish dates; and a schedule of payments.
- Be wary if you're asked to pay for an entire job in advance. A contractor should not ask for more than ten percent of the total contract price upfront.

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