

Consumer Alert!

May 6, 2008

REPAIRS THAT DO NOT LEAD TO DESPAIR

Spring brings warmer temperatures, longer days, greener lawns and home repairs and improvements. It also brings increased complaints about home improvement fraud to our Consumer Protection Line. District Attorney Carol Chambers reminds consumers that some simple precautions can reduce the possibility that the repairs or improvements to your home will not lead to despair later.

To protect yourself from home improvement fraud:

1. Only do business with local and well established businesses. Never do business with someone who shows up uninvited on your doorstep.
2. Never allow anyone into your home that you do not know and trust. Report any suspicious visitors to your home to local law enforcement.
3. Never allow someone to pressure you into a hasty decision. If someone tells you there is a serious problem with your home, get a second or third opinion before proceeding with the repairs.
4. Before doing business with any company, check its record with the Better Business Bureau and if it is registered with the Secretary of State.
5. Get a written contract spelling out what work will be done, what materials will be used, what it will cost and when work will start and when it will be completed.
6. Verify that the contractor has workmen's compensation and liability insurance before any work begins on your home. Have yourself listed as an additional insured on the contractor's policy.

Need help? Have Questions?

Call the Consumer Protection Line

720-874-8547

