

# Report Unlicensed Contractor Activity

**CALL 850-487-1395**



CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE  
**DEPARTMENT OF  
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**  
[www.fortlauderdale.gov](http://www.fortlauderdale.gov)

**DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS AND  
PROFESSIONAL REGULATIONS**  
850-487-1395  
[www.myfloridalicense.com](http://www.myfloridalicense.com)



If you would like this publication in an alternate format, please call  
(954) 828-4755 or email [strategiccommunications@fortlauderdale.gov](mailto:strategiccommunications@fortlauderdale.gov).

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CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE  
**Department of  
Sustainable Development**

The City's Building Services Division, in partnership with the Fort Lauderdale Police Department and the Broward County Contractor's Licensing Board would like to provide neighbors with the following tips to help them work with contractors on a variety of construction projects.

### Tips for Working with a Contractor

- Ask to see the contractor's license, which should list the contractor's name, license number, address, and specialty
- If a contractor has multiple employees, ask for the contractor's general liability and workers' compensation insurance policies
- Ask for written estimates from several licensed contractors
- Read contracts carefully and ask questions
- Consider having an attorney review a contract before signing
- Ask for references
- Make sure the entire scope of work for the job is clearly detailed in the contract
- Get all change orders to the original scope of work in writing and signed by both parties

### Warning Signs That a Contractor May Not Be Licensed

- They are not willing to put a contract in writing
- They ask you to obtain a permit
- They say a permit is not necessary
- They request a large down payment before work begins
- They ask you to pay in cash or make a check payable to cash
- They ask you to make a check payable to an individual, instead of a company name
- They cannot provide proof of insurance
- They do not display a license number on advertisements
- They are only willing to work on weekends

### Report Illegal Activity

Unlicensed contracting activity is a crime that negatively affects the health, safety, and welfare of our community.

Under Florida Statute 489, contractors performing construction-related work must be licensed and are required to have a certificate of competency to show validation of licensure.

Type of work requiring a licensed contractor in Fort Lauderdale and the State of Florida include (but are not limited to):

- General Structural Work
- Alarm
- Aluminium Siding or Canopies
- Demolition
- Store Front Door, Window & Siding Installation
- Electrical Panel
- Garage Door Installation
- Plumbing & Gas Installation
- A/C Installation
- Hurricane Protection Installation
- Irrigation
- Septic Tank Installation
- Solar Panel Installation
- Roofing

*A complete list can be found in Chapter 9 of the City's municipal code of ordinances. If you suspect that a contractor does not have a license, please the Department of Business and Professional Regulation at 850-487-1395 or by visiting [www.myfloridalicense.com](http://www.myfloridalicense.com).*

**Thank you for helping us in our fight to end unlicensed contractor activity in the City of Fort Lauderdale.**