



## Oregon Construction Contractors Board

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[www.oregon.gov/ccb](http://www.oregon.gov/ccb)

## CCB sends warning to victims of recent tornado and storm damage

The Construction Contractors Board (CCB) warns Oregon homeowners who experience damage from the tornado in the Aumsville area, the heavy storms hitting the Portland and mid-Willamette Valley areas and the strong winds along the coastal areas, not to become victims of thieves pretending to be legitimate contractors. Many times in these urgent situations, homeowners whose homes and other property are damaged are prime targets.

**Safety first:** In the event trees are downed, it is possible that power lines are also affected. Homeowners should be extremely cautious and treat downed power lines as if they are live. Report these downed lines to your local electrical utility.

If roofs, windows, fences, or patio coverings are damaged, or if you have downed trees that should be removed, "Check to make sure the contractor is licensed," says CCB Enforcement Manager Richard Blank. "Scam artists come out of the woodwork after severe weather to prey on people who are already anxious because of the terrible experience they just went through."

The CCB has the following advice on repairing your damaged property:

- Be wary of door-to-door repair solicitations, "too-good-to-be-true" bids and contractors using vehicles with out-of-state license plates
- Don't pay 100 percent of the bill before the repairs are properly completed
- Always use a properly licensed contractor

Homeowners can easily check with the CCB to make sure the contractor is properly licensed through the agency website [www.oregon.gov/CCB](http://www.oregon.gov/CCB), or 503-378-4621. A license offers some financial protection to consumers through the business' CCB bond and insurance. Consumers should verify a contractor's CCB license before signing a home repair contract or paying any money.

The CCB is the state agency licensing more than 38,000 contractors. Anyone who is paid to repair, improve or build a home must be licensed by the CCB. Free consumer publications with helpful tips are available at the CCB's website and 503-378-4621.