



Oregon Construction Contractors Board

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

DATE: December 4, 2007 (07-15)
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CCB reminds homeowners that repair scams often follow storms

December's storms have left many homes and buildings damaged by wind and flood waters. The Construction Contractors Board (CCB) is warning Oregon homeowners not to become a victim to thieves pretending to be legitimate contractors. Homeowners whose home and other property is damaged are prime targets.

If roofs, windows, fences, or patio coverings are damaged, or if you've got downed trees that should be removed the CCB has the following advice:

- Check to make sure the contractor is properly licensed. Consumers should verify a contractor's CCB license at www.oregon.gov/CCB, or 503-378-4621 before signing a home repair contract or paying any money.
- Be wary of door-to-door repair solicitations, contractors using vehicles with out-of-state license plates and "too-good-to-be-true" bids.
- Don't pay 100 percent of the bill before the repairs are properly completed..

"You've been a victim of the storm, don't become a victim to a scam artist," says Gina Fox, CCB Public Information Officer. "Scam artists come out of the woodwork after severe weather to prey on people anxious to get their home fixed."

The CCB is the state agency licensing more than 45,000 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.

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