



Charlotte County Government

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Tips for Hiring Contractors for After-Storm Repairs

Are you hiring contractors to make after-storm repairs? If so, here are a few tips to follow:

- Be cautious of contractors soliciting door-to-door.
- Obtain estimates from at least three (3) licensed contractors.
- Ask for the contractor's license number and verify their license with either Charlotte County or the State of Florida. To check if a contractor holds the appropriate license, please either call 941.743.1201, visit the Community Development Department's Citizen Access Portal Online Services <https://www.charlottecountyfl.gov/departments/community-development/> or email BuildingConstruction@CharlotteCountyFL.gov. You may also visit www.myfloridalicense.com to verify State of Florida licensed contractors.
- Ask for and check references.
- Ask for proof of general liability and workman's compensation insurance. If they do not have these insurances, you personally may be liable for any accidents on your property.
- Ask for a written estimate and read the fine print.
- Obtain a written contract that covers what work is to be done, when the work will start, the cost and payment schedules and the quality of materials to be used.
- Never make full payment up front. Don't sign over an insurance settlement. Most reputable contractors will accept payment based on the percentage of work completed.
- Don't make final payment until the job is completed. Obtain lien waivers so you don't end up with bills from suppliers the contractor didn't pay.
- Make sure that all work that requires permits and inspections is approved and officially closed out before final payment is made.

For more information, contact the Charlotte County Community Development Department at 941.743.1201 or BuildingConstruction@CharlotteCountyFL.gov.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

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