



# Charlotte County Government

*"To exceed expectations in the delivery of public services."*

[www.CharlotteCountyFL.gov](http://www.CharlotteCountyFL.gov)

## Tips for Hiring Contractors for After-Storm Repairs (02/2016)

Are you hiring contractors for after-storm repairs? Here are a few tips:

- 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 call 941.743.1201, visit the Community Development Departments "Online Services" web page [www.charlottecountyfl.gov/services/buildingconstruction/Pages/Online-Services.aspx](http://www.charlottecountyfl.gov/services/buildingconstruction/Pages/Online-Services.aspx) or email [BuildingSvcs@CharlotteCountyFL.gov](mailto:BuildingSvcs@CharlotteCountyFL.gov). You may also visit [www.myfloridalicense.com](http://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.
- 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.

DJ:TipsContractorsAfterStormRepairs

### COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

Permits | Inspections | Plans Review | Building Code Enforcement | Contractor Licensing  
Building Construction Services Building  
18400 Murdock Circle | Port Charlotte FL 33948-1074  
Phone: 941.743.1201 | Fax: 941.764.4907 | Inspections IVR: 941.833.4086  
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