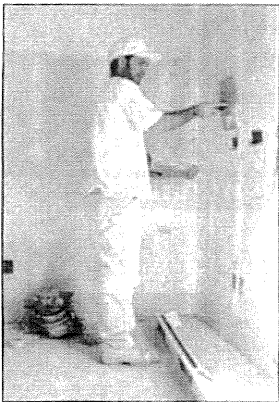


Home Improvement Scams

At one time or another, most of us need to hire someone to assist with a home improvement or repair. We may need a new roof, the house may need painting, or we may need some help with repairing things inside our home. Your decision about who to hire should always be made with caution because it is not uncommon to be "ripped off" by individuals you hire to assist you.



Deciding who to hire for home repairs and whether you are receiving a fair price can often be a difficult decision. How can you make the best choice and minimize your chances of losing your money to a con artist? Please consider the following suggestions:

1. Always obtain at least

three separate estimates for the work you need done. Review the estimates with your friends or family members to get their opinions.

2. Always call the Better Business Bureau to find out if any complaints have been filed against the person or company.

3. If possible, try to hire someone from a company which has been in business for many years. But still double check with the Better Business Bureau.

4. Do not hire individuals who show up at your door and try to convince you that you need to hire them. Some con artists will knock on your door and try to convince you that your roof is about to collapse. Other con artists have falsely told homeowners that there have been five burglaries on their street in the past week and will try to frighten you into buying a security system.

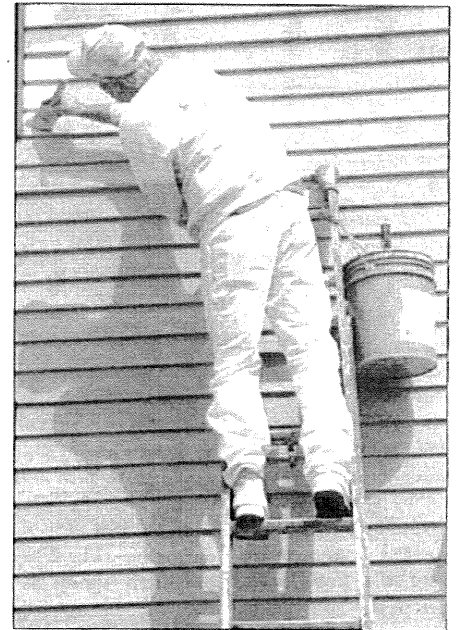
5. Do not hire someone who requires you to pay the full amount in advance.

6. Do not assume that because the person is friendly and gives you an impressive brochure, that he is legitimate.

7. Try to get at least one recommendation from a friend who has had a good experience with the repair person. However, do not rely solely on your friend's recommendation. Some con artists will do a good job for one person and scam everyone else.

8. If someone starts performing work at your home without your permission, call the police. Do not allow that person to pressure you into paying them for work they were not hired to perform.

9. If you have doubts about the repair person, trust your instinct and do not hire him.



SHERRI BEVAN WALSH Prosecuting Attorney County of Summit

Sherrri Bevan Walsh has been our county prosecutor since 2001. In 2007, she was honored as Public Official of the Year by the National Association of Social Workers for her commitment to crime victims. In 2006, she was named Prosecutor of the Year by the Ohio Patrolmen's Benevolent Association for her aggressive prosecution of criminals. In 2005, the Child Support Enforcement Agency, a division of the Summit County Prosecutor's Office, was awarded the Most Improved Child Support Program in the Country for its outstanding work. This year, she is serving as Vice President of the Ohio Prosecuting Attorney's Association after having served on its Executive Board for the past seven years. She was also appointed by the Attorney General to Chair his State Victims Assistance Advisory Board.



In her position as Prosecutor, her goal is to aggressively prosecute criminals and ensure that victims receive support and assistance throughout the criminal justice proceedings. In 2007, her criminal division handled approximately 4,000 defendants who committed felony crimes in Summit County, with a conviction rate of 95 percent.

Walsh has been an attorney in the Summit County area for 22 years. She previously served as an Assistant Prosecutor for the City of Akron, a Magistrate in three Summit County courts, and as a Police Legal Advisor. She also was a partner for 10 years in the law firm of Bevan & Associates.

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