

CONSUMER TIPS FOR CHOOSING A CONTRACTOR DURING HURRICANE SEASON:

One of your most critical post-disaster recovery issues may be the hiring of a competent, licensed contractor. The Florida Refrigeration Air Conditioning Contractors Association (FRACCA) along with DBPR offers the following suggestions:

USE ONLY LICENSED CONTRACTORS TO PERFORM WORK ON YOUR HVAC SYSTEM

- Before you hire a contractor, ask to see a state-issued license.
- Be sure the license looks like the example below. Ask to see multiple forms of identification.
- An occupational license does not qualify an individual to act as a contractor, it's just a "tax revenue receipt."
- Being registered with the [Division of Corporations](#) as in INC. or LLC. does not qualify an individual or company to act as a contractor.
- The individual must be licensed by the [Department of Business and Professional Regulation](#).
- Ask for references. A legitimate contractor will be happy to provide you with the names and contact information of recent customers.
- Get a written estimate from several licensed contractors. Make sure the estimate includes the work the contractor will do, the materials involved, the completion date, and total cost.
- Beware of contractors who claim to be the fastest or the cheapest. Hiring them could result in poor workmanship, inferior materials or unfinished jobs.
- Contact your insurance agent first to verify your insurance covers the repairs before you sign a contract. Know the steps to file a claim. You do not have to tell the contractor how much your insurance company will pay for repairs, but if you do, get the contractor's estimate first.
- A contractor must have a license from DBPR to perform roofing repairs or replacements, structural additions, air conditioning repair or replacement, plumbing work, electrical and/or alarm work. These jobs typically require a permit. Be sure to check with your local building department regarding permit requirements for all your projects.
- DBPR does not license or have jurisdiction over concrete contractors, painters, drywall contractors, cabinetmakers, tile installers, or anyone doing minor repairs. Check with your local building department regarding licensure requirements for these trades. Remember to ask for references.

What to look for when verifying a construction contractor's license

- 1 - License Number
- 2 - License Date
- 3 - Name of Qualifier
- 4 - Company Name
- 5 - Expiration Date
- 6 - QR Code

