



## DON'T GET NAILED BY SPRING SCAMS

There are teams of professional home-improvement scammers who roam the country scoping out victims. "Travelers" or "Storm chasers" as they are referred to, move from state to state and city to city offering home-repair deals to unsuspecting people. If you hire these folks, you may end up with a house painted with cheap grades of paint, your roof repair fixed with poor-quality materials, or your driveway resurfaced with reconditioned motor oil mixed with a small amount of asphalt. Frequently, traveler's pressure victims into paying a down payment for a job that isn't completed or charge more than was agreed upon.

### Door-to-Door Con Artists Often:

- Peddle roofing, paving and other repair work.
- Drive new trucks typically with out-of-state license plates.
- Prey on the elderly using friendly, but high-pressure tactics.
- Say they have material left over from a previous job or insist they recently did work for a
- Ask you to get the required building permits.
- Quote bargain prices but demand much more after the job is complete.

Before you hire a contractor, get several estimates and ask plenty of questions, including:

- How many projects like mine have you completed in the last year?
- Will my project require a permit? Don't fall for a contractor who says they can get the job done without a permit.
- What type of insurance do you carry?
- What is the payment plan? Never pay 100% of the cost upfront.

**Get a written contract.** It should be clear and concise and include who is going to do the work, the specifics of the project, projected timing and cost of your project.

And this last warning, if your new/unknown contractor asks you to step outside to review a project, lock your door. Your new contractor may have a friend waiting for the "all clear sign" to get into your house.

Read about Denver's construction rules [here](#).

[This article](#) from the Better Business Bureau will provide more tips on construction scams.