



do some home improvement homework...

Thinking about hiring someone for home improvements? Unfortunately, there have been some recent reports of contractor fraud in the area. The City of St. Albert encourages residents to abide by the following tips when hiring a contractor:

- **Always get several written estimates for large work.**
Some consumer groups suggest a minimum of three quotes and to consider both price and timelines before selecting a contractor.
- **Research the contractor.**
Ask friends and family members about the company or check with the Edmonton Better Business Bureau to see if there are any outstanding complaints with the business.
- **Check work references.**
Ask the contractor to provide testimonials and work references of previous clients. These references will be able to tell you if any issues arose, how they were handled and if they were satisfied with the work done.
- **Verify the contractor has a current City of St. Albert business licence.**
Any business that is providing a service in the city needs a City of St. Albert Business Licence regardless of where they originate from. A business licence means the contractor abides by the regulations set for a business in St. Albert.
- **Have a detailed contract written up.**
Make sure the contract includes a detailed summary of the work to be done, a description of the material to be used, how the price will be calculated and a timeline for the work. It may also be helpful to include stipulation of what will happen if the contractor fails to meet these agreed provisions.

For more information, contact Business Licensing
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