



PRESS RELEASE

Colorado Department of Law
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Colorado Attorney General Cynthia H. Coffman Warns Homeowners of Increased Roofing Scams

“Don’t be April Fooled by allowing just any roofing contractor on to your property and into your pocketbook”

DENVER – Colorado Attorney General Cynthia H. Coffman is warning consumers to be on the lookout for fly-by-night roofing contractors who promise work but take off with your money with the job incomplete or not begun. Following record snow falls in March, roofing scams are expected to increase in April and May. The Attorney General advises consumers to do their homework or risk becoming an “April Fool.”

“Many of these unlicensed roofing companies will canvas an entire neighborhood following large snow, hail, or rainstorm. They pitch a limited time ‘special offer’ and promise to do repairs that either never get done or cause real damage to a homeowner’s roof. Do your homework, ask good questions and don’t fall for high pressure salesmen,” said Attorney General Coffman. “Remember, if a deal sound too good to be true... it probably is.”

The Attorney General urged consumers to follow some basic tips to avoid roofing scams:

- Never allow an uninvited contractor to inspect your roof or to contact your insurance company directly.
- Say no to contractors using high pressure sales tactics or requesting that you make an immediate decision.

- Before you spend any significant amount of money on a new roof, contact your insurance company yourself and arrange to have an authorized adjuster come to your home.
- Obtain bids from at least three different contractors and check each one with organizations like your local Better Business Bureau.



“Your home is probably your most important investment -- so be cautious. My office received more than 100 complaints against roofing contractors in 2015,” said Attorney General Coffman. “Most of those involved extreme delays, damage to property and simply shoddy workmanship. We even received complaints where the contractor never showed up to do the work after they got paid.”

Attorney General Coffman further advised that every homeowner should know:

- Colorado law requires that a roofing contractor **MUST** provide a written contract that includes: the approximate dates of service, the approximate costs of the services, the roofing contractor's contact information, identification of the roofing contractor's surety and liability coverage insurer and information regarding your right to rescind the contract within seventy-two hours if your insurance company denies your claim.
- A roofing contractor **MUST** include, on the face of the contract, in **bold-faced type**, a statement indicating that the roofing contractor shall hold in trust any payment from the property owner until the roofing contractor has delivered roofing materials at the residential property site or has performed a majority of the roofing work on the residential property.

Don't fall victim to contractor fraud and end up feeling like an “April Fool.” Do your homework and visit StopFraudColorado.gov to learn about common types of fraud, get tips on how to avoid becoming a victim of fraud and easily report fraud. If you believe you have been defrauded or victimized by a Colorado business or nonprofit, file a report by visiting StopFraudColorado.gov or by calling 1-800-222-4444.

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