

Get to know your Contractor

Are there any early warning signs that I may be dealing with an unscrupulous contractor?

Yes. Early warning signs could include:

- A large down payment is requested before work begins.
- Many requests for money during early phases of construction.
- A verbal contract only, as person is not willing to put all terms in writing.
- You are asked to make your check payable to an individual's name or asked to make payment in cash or to make the check payable to "cash."
- The contractor suggests doing the work without permits or asks you, as the homeowner, to obtain the permit.

What should I do before making a final payment to the contractor?

The contractor should provide to you proof that all final inspections have been approved by the Building Department or provide a Certificate of Completion or Occupancy issued by the Building Department. If you want to verify that all inspection approvals have been obtained, you may call the Permit Records Section at 962-0340 Ext: 4

Additionally, you should request final release of liens from any individuals or firms who have provided labor, material or supplies, especially those who have sent you a "Notice to Owner" letter.