Warning Signs

Beware of contractors purporting to be the fastest or the cheapest, because hiring them may result in poor workmanship, inferior materials or unfinished jobs. Such claims are also warning signs of unlicensed activity.

Unlicensed individuals often target the uninformed and inexperienced, as well as the elderly.

Unlicensed individuals frequently travel in unmarked vehicles, soliciting door to door.

They often give a post office box address instead of a street address.

They demand large payments up front, ask for cash payments, ask for full payment before the work is completed, and convince homeowners to get the necessary building permits.

To verify a contractor's license or file a complaint against a contractor, call 1.850.487.1395 or go to the department's website at: **www.MyFloridaLicense.com.**

To report unlicensed activity, call toll-free at **866.532.1440.**

dbpr
Department of Business & Professional Regulation

PROTECT YOUR SAFETY AND YOUR INVESTMENT

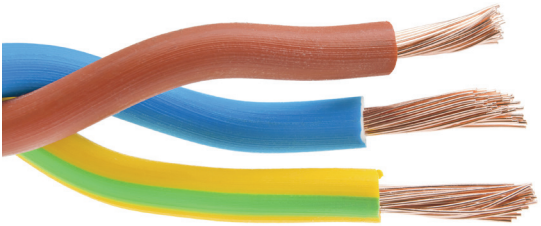
HIRE ONLY LICENSED ELECTRICAL AND ALARM SYSTEM CONTRACTORS



Electrical and alarm work done improperly can cause severe harm to both life and property. Be sure you only hire licensed contractors.

This type of work is so complex that Florida has developed stringent licensing requirements for those individuals providing these services. Florida's licensed electrical and alarm contractors are educated and tested to ensure their level of expertise and, in turn, your safety.

www.MyFloridaLicense.com



Florida law requires an electrical or alarm system license for:

- Most electrical work or wiring other than simply plugging a power cord into an existing electrical outlet
- The installation and monitoring of all burglar and fire alarm systems
- The installation of generators when a contractor wires them directly to a structure
- The installation or maintenance of electrical signs that do not simply plug into an existing outlet
- Limited energy systems such as low voltage electrical wiring, home entertainment and fiber optics when wired through a structure
- Adding outlets or light fixtures and changing electrical systems.

Most of the above jobs typically require a permit. Be sure to check with your local building department regarding permit requirements for all of your projects.

Contact DBPR

Customer Contact Center: 850-487-1395
To report unlicensed activity: 866-532-1440
www.MyFloridaLicense.com

Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation

@FloridaDBPR

Download the *DBPR Mobile* app on iTunes or get it on Google Play

Choosing a Contractor

- Ask all potential contractors to see their state-issued license. Look at the expiration date and make sure a contractor's license is current.
- Ask to see multiple forms of identification.
- A business tax receipt does **not** qualify an individual to act as a contractor.
- 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 the total cost.
- Verify licenses. Go online to www.MyFloridaLicense.com to verify if your contractor's license is current, active and associated with the company you are doing business with. Consumers can also verify licenses and report unlicensed activity on the DBPR Mobile app.

Signing a Contract

Before you sign a contract, be certain it includes:

- The contractor's name, street address, telephone number and state license number;
- A precise description of work to be completed;
- The completion date, including cleanup after the work is finished; and
- Warranty agreements, including length, terms and recourse.



