

# **Protect Your Home – Hire only Licensed Contractors**

To protect yourself from scam artists, obtain a permit from the Building Department. The Building Department makes sure the contractor of choice is licensed in the State of Florida if a licensed contractor is required for the work being done, and by pulling a permit the building department also makes sure that the contractor has the necessary insurance to protect the homeowner.

Also, if the value of the work to be done at a residence is over \$2,500, the contractor must file with the Clerk of Courts a Notice of Commencement (NOC) that is signed by the homeowner. This protects the homeowner financially from the possibility of having to pay twice for the work being completed. The NOC ensures that the contractor is responsible for paying the sub-contractors and material suppliers. After the permit is issued, an inspection, or series of inspections will be performed by the building official or a certified inspector to see that all work is completed and meets city zoning, city statutes, and state building codes.

Questions concerning local building issues, certification of contractors or permit requirements can be answered by calling 352-544-8301.

For tips before hiring a contractor visit [www.dbpr.state.fl.us](http://www.dbpr.state.fl.us).