

## **Licensed Contractors Measure Up To Tennessee's Highest Standards**

When selecting a contractor, it is important to use caution – whether you are considering hiring a contractor for home improvement, remodeling, or new construction. Be sure the contractor you hire is licensed, insured, and reputable.

### **5 Steps To Selecting A Contractor**

1. Ask to see the contractor's license and write down the number.  
The Board for Licensing Contractors provides a pocket card to all licensed contractors.  
*\*Check with the State Board for Licensing Contractors to verify the validity and current status of the contractor's license.  
Call 800-544-7693 or 615-741-8307.*
2. Get recommendations from friends and neighbors. Use a local, well-established contractor. Ask the contractor to give you references. Call those references, ask questions, and look at the work.
3. Ask the contractor if his company is insured against claims covering workers' compensation, property damage, and general liability.
4. Get all estimates in writing. Estimates should be very specific and should include exactly what you're getting for the price. Make sure all bids are based on the same set of specifications and include a completion date. Get a written contract for all work.
5. Be sure to see the building permit before work starts, and make sure it's not in your name. Never obtain the building permit yourself for work being done by a contractor. In doing so, you assume all the risks and it will be more difficult to recoup money for inferior work.