



LONE STAR  
LEGAL AID

## HOME REPAIR FRAUD

### 1. GET SEVERAL BIDS

- Try to get written bids or estimates from at least three different contractors.

### 2. CHECK OUT THE CONTRACTOR

- Get the contractor's full name, address, and phone number.
- Ask for references and call them.
- Check with the Better Business Bureau and courthouse for criminal and civil cases against the contractor.
- For repairs that cost more than \$10,000, ask the contractor for a copy of their registration with the Texas Residential Construction Commission.
- Be careful when dealing with contractors who have out-of-state license plates.

### 3. GET IT IN WRITING

- Get a written contract.
- Specify the work to be done.
- Specify the price.
- Do not sign anything you do not understand.

### 4. CONTROL THE MONEY

- Do not pay more than half (1/2) of the money up front.
- It is against the law for contractors in disaster areas to take any money up front unless they have a local office in your county or one county over. (That office must have been there for at least 1 year.)
- Do not make the final payment until you have inspected the work.
- Make sure you are completely satisfied with the repairs.
- Do not pay cash.

\*Report bad contractors to the Better Business Bureau, the Texas Attorney General, the local district attorney, and LSLA.

1-800-504-7030 | [www.lonestarlegal.org](http://www.lonestarlegal.org)

