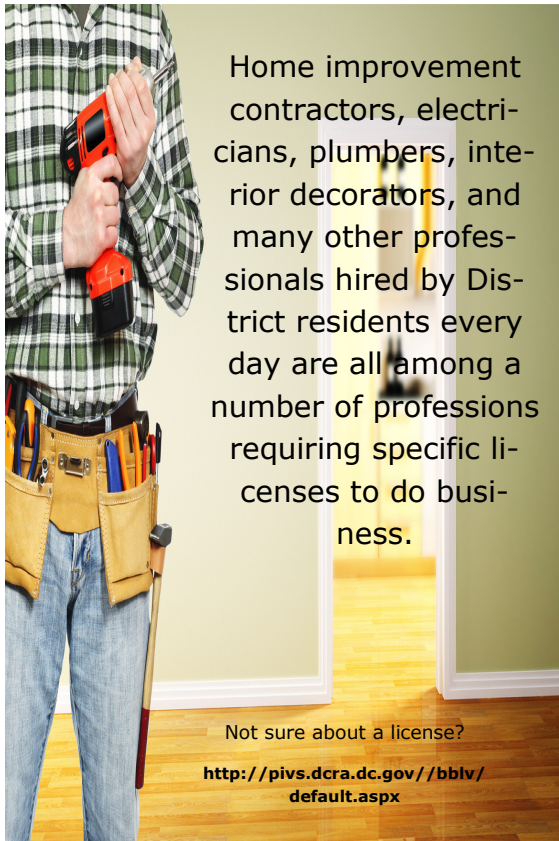


Before You Hire a Contractor "Hire Licensed!"

To protect yourself from fraud, **always** ask for proof of licensure before signing on the dotted line.

Always "Hire Licensed."

To operate in the District of Columbia, a business has to have a license.



DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER & REGULATORY AFFAIRS

Melinda Bolling
Director



Muriel Bowser
Mayor, District of Columbia

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

DCRA OFFICE OF CONSUMER PROTECTION

BUYING A HOME?



Call (202) 442-4400

Email noreply.consumerprotection@dc.gov

On the Web dcra.dc.gov

WHAT SECRET

The Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs is here to help you!

Questions to ask:

1. Was the house/condo recently renovated?
If so, was it done according to city codes?
2. Did it get the proper permits?
If so, do the permits cover the actual work done?
3. Did it get inspected?
If so, did it pass?
4. Does anything seem off?
Compare the property with the permit records.
Still not sure?
Contact DCRA! (202) 442-4400



IS YOUR DREAM

Home Inspection

Home inspections are one of the more important aspects of the home buying process, and a thorough inspection may occasionally reveal problems that are severe enough to seriously concern a future owner.

DC's housing market is full of houses and condos that have been recently renovated by developers. The quality of these renovations varies greatly.

The biggest worry when buying a renovated home is whether the developer has covered up large problems—mold, cracks in the foundation, a bad electrical system—with drywall or quick fixes.

To that end, get your hands on the property report at.....

www.pivs.dcra.dc.gov

Receive detailed information on Permits, Inspections done to the property, and much more!

Detailed inspection reports can also be obtained via FOIA request in just 10-15 business days.

<http://dcforms.dc.gov/webform/dcra-foia-request-form>

HOME HIDING?



Hiring a Contractor

Do your research.

Check with...

<http://pivs.dcra.dc.gov/bblv/default.aspx>

Before You Hire a Contractor

Get Estimates

Ask Questions:

- Show me your Business License
MUST have a DC Business License
- How many projects like mine have you completed in the last year?

Ask for addresses so you can see how familiar the contractor is with your type of project.

- Will my project require a permit?
Most states and localities require permits for building projects, even for simple jobs like decks. A competent contractor will get all the necessary permits before starting work on the project. You should choose a contractor familiar with the permitting process in DC.

- May I have a list of references?

A contractor should be able to give you names, addresses, and phone numbers of at least three clients with projects like yours.

- Will you be using subcontractors on this project? *If so, make sure the subcontractors have current licenses too.*