

Avoid Hiring an Unlicensed Electrical Contractor

State law requires a person, firm or corporation to be licensed *before* engaging or offering to engage in the business of installing, maintaining, altering or repairing **any** electric work, wiring, devices, appliances or equipment. People are licensed only when they prove their ability, pass a difficult exam, and take continuing education.

Protect yourself from unscrupulous or unlicensed electrical contractors.

Beware if a supposed contractor says no electrical contractor's license will be needed as long as you pull the permit.

Beware of any contractor who needs an up front payment or solicits door-to-door. Most professionals can finance their own work.

Remember there are scam artists posing as contractors who will take advantage of homeowners. Don't rush into repairs, no matter how badly they may be needed.

TIPS BEFORE HIRING AN ELECTRICAL CONTRACTOR

1. *Decide what electrical work you want done.*

Determine exactly what electrical work you want done and the amount of money you can comfortably spend. Take the time to write down

the details of the work you want done before you contact a licensed electrical contractor. Keep a copy for yourself.

2. *Obtain 2 or 3 Estimates.*

Get at least 2 or 3 bids from licensed electrical contractors. When comparing estimates, be sure each is based on the scope of work you want done. Do not automatically accept the lowest bid. Be wary of "special deals" and offers from "a friend of a friend". A higher bid may be worth the price for better materials, workmanship, or reliability. Unlicensed people cut corners and sometimes charge less because they will not let any knowledgeable person check their work.

3. *Check References*

Ask for references on work the contractor has completed in your local area. Be sure to check the references by asking if they would hire the contractor again, if the work was good, passed inspection, was on time and on budget.

4. *Verify Electrical Contractors License.*

To verify the information provided by the proposed contractor, contact the State Board of Examiners of Electrical Contractors either by

logging on the board website at www.ncbeec.org, click on Licensee Search or by calling 919-733-9042. Be prepared with the contractor's business or individual name, business address or license number.

5. *Written Contract.*

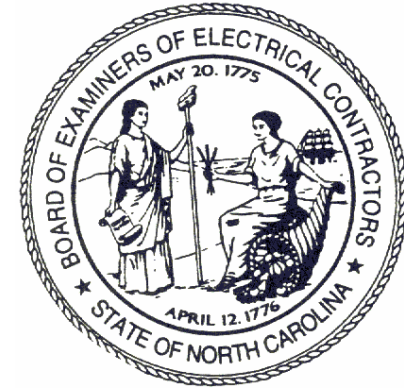
Make sure you have a written contract BEFORE work begins and don't sign it until you fully understand the terms. Beware if you are asked to pay cash instead of a check made payable to the contracting company. A reasonable down payment is 10% to 30% of the total cost of the project or 1/3 at the beginning, 1/3 after rough-in and 1/3 when the project is completed.

6. *Permits and Inspections.*

A permit is required by your local city or county inspections department **Before** work begins. Inspections are required while the work is in progress. The contractor is responsible for complying with the local permit and inspection requirements. Verify that this is being done by the contractor. Ask to see the permit and inspection records. Remember the inspector is your best friend and is there to help assure the safety of your family. The inspection is not costly and is worth every penny.

*Protect yourself, your property
and your pocketbook*

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ELECTRICAL CONTRACTOR**



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of Electrical Contractors**

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Electrical Contractors
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Electrical Contractors**

Mission Statement: To protect the life, health and property of the public through examination of applicants, education of licensees and discipline of individuals to promote quality electrical contracting in accordance with NC General Statutes Chapter 87 – Article 4.

The Board licenses and regulates North Carolina's 14,000 electrical contractors and investigates more than 200 complaints against contractors (licensed and unlicensed) annually.

Complaint Forms

If you have a complaint against a contractor (licensed or unlicensed) log on the board website at www.ncbeec.org, click on Complaints or call 919-733-9042 and ask for a Complaint Form. The Board staff follows up every complaint and tries to solve your problem.

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