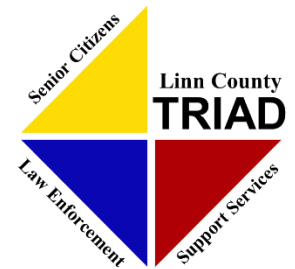


Construction & Repair Fraud



- **Warning Signs of Traveling Con-Artists**
 - Usually going door-to-door
 - May not have a professional image and/or be from out-of-state
 - Commonly don't have permits or insurance
 - Often want money upfront

- **Guidelines to Avoid Fraud**
 - Don't let them in your house
 - Ask for a copy of the permit
 - Ask for the name and contact information for their insurer
 - Get license number/report to law enforcement
 - Say NO

- **Thoroughly Evaluate Contractors**
 - Beware of high pressure sales (today only/display home)
 - Shop around and get multiple bids with written estimates
 - Check out the contractor before signing anything
 - Attorney General (515) 281-5926 or (888) 777-4590
 - Better Business Bureau (515) 243-8137 or www.bbb.org
 - County Clerk of Court
 - Get everything in writing:
 - Work that will be done
 - Responsibility for permits
 - Cost estimate
 - Any other promises
 - Copy of liability insurance
 - Start and completion dates (with consequences)
 - Remember... sign it at home = 3 day cancellation allowed
 - Don't pay large sums of money in advance
 - Make checks out to both suppliers and the contractor
 - Insist on a Mechanics Lien Waiver

Always Protect Yourself & Your Identity!

Sources:

[1] *Scam Alert – This Home Improvement Deal is Really a Scam* Better Business Bureau 2015

[2] *Consumer Tips – Home Improvement & Repairs* Iowa Attorney General <https://www.iowaattorneygeneral.gov>

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Additional Resources

Cedar Rapids Police Department

505 1st St SW
Cedar Rapids, IA 52404
(319) 286-5375 ext. 5485
www.cedar-rapids.org/police

Crime Stoppers

1-(800) -272-7463

Cedar Rapids Fire Department

713 1st Avenue SE
Cedar Rapids, IA 52401
(319) 286-5200 – Main Number
(319) 286-5277 – Public Educator
www.cedar-rapids.org/government/departments/fire

Marion Police Department

6315 US-151
Marion, IA 52302
(319) 377-1511
www.cityofmarion.org/departments/police-department

Marion Fire Department

3933 Katz Drive
Marion, IA 52302
(319) 377-8237
www.cityofmarion.org/departments/fire-department

Hiawatha Police Department

101 Emmons St.
Hiawatha, IA 52233
(319) 393-1212

Linn County Sherriff's Office

P.O. Box 669, 310 2nd Avenue SW
Cedar Rapids, IA 52406
(319) 892-6100
www.linncounty.org

Mount Vernon Police Department

213 1st St NW
Mount Vernon, IA 52314
(319) 895-6141
www.cityofmtvernon.com

Linn County Emergency Management

6301 Kirkwood Blvd SW
Cedar Rapids, IA 52404
(319) 892-6500
<http://www.linncounty-ema.org>

Aging Services

317 7th Ave SE Suite 302B
Cedar Rapids, IA 52401
(319) 398-3644
www.agingservicesia.org

Heritage Area Agency on Aging

6301 Kirkwood Blvd SW
Cedar Rapids, IA 52404
(319) 398-5559
www.HeritageAAA.org

Horizons: A Family Service Alliance

819 5th Street SE
Cedar Rapids, IA 52403
(319) 398-3943
www.horizonsfamily.org

LifeLong Links

(Families & Caregivers can get info on services for older adults & persons with disabilities age 18+)
(866) 468-7887
www.lifelonglinks.org

AARP

(866) 554-5378
www.aarp.org/ia

United Way of East Central Iowa

317 7th Avenue SE Suite 401
Cedar Rapids, IA 52401
(319) 398-5372
<http://www.uweci.org/>

