



## When Choosing a Contractor

Choosing a contractor for a home improvement project can be overwhelming. Here are a few tips to help you.

### **Tips on choosing a contractor:**

- Verify that the contractor is properly licensed with Pinellas County Construction Licensing Board (PCCLB). An occupational license is not a construction license.
- The license number must be displayed on all advertising, including vehicles, websites, business cards and contracts.
- Get several written estimate. Estimates should include a detailed description of the work, the start and completion date, payment schedule, list of materials, the total cost of the job and any warranties.
- Check-out the complaint history of the business with the licensing agency, Pinellas County Consumer Protection and the Better Business Bureau.
- Ask friends and family for recommendations.
- Ask the business for references and be sure to follow through with verifying them.
- Beware of contractors who ask to be paid in cash or request large down payments up front.
- The contractor should obtain all required permits.
- Make sure to stick to the payment schedule. Don't make final payment until all the work and final inspections are completed.
- Make sure your contractor provides you with releases of liens from his subcontractors and suppliers with each payment and a Contractor's Affidavit at the completion of the job. This assures that everyone involved with this job has been paid.

Pinellas County Construction Licensing Board-727-582-3100  
[www.pcclb.org](http://www.pcclb.org)

Pinellas County Building & Development Review Services-727-464-3888  
[www.pinellascounty.org/build](http://www.pinellascounty.org/build)