

# FRAUD ALERT!

From the Office of Denver District Attorney Mitch Morrissey

## YOU CAN PREVENT HOME IMPROVEMENT FRAUD

Home improvement fraud is the number one consumer fraud prosecuted by metro area district attorneys. You CAN prevent fraud by following these steps:

**DON'T** do business with door-to-door contractors – be especially wary of those using scare tactics or offering bargains.

**DO** call your local building department to verify a contractor's license.

**DO** get at least three bids. Don't necessarily choose the lowest bid.

**DO** get a Better Business Bureau report: 303-222-4444, [www.denverbbb.org](http://www.denverbbb.org)

**DO** insist on a written contract that details the work to be done and materials used, the start and completion dates.

**DO** ask the contractor to show you proof of liability insurance.

**DON'T** pay any money up front.

**DON'T** pay in full until 1) the job is complete, 2) you're satisfied, 3) you've received a "lien waiver" showing the contractor has paid sub contractors and suppliers, and 4) an inspector has signed off on the job.

Need help? Call the DA Fraud Specialist

720-913-9196

*You will reach a live person!*