



# MEDIA RELEASE

STATE OF TENNESSEE  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND INSURANCE

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## **Verify licenses of potential home contractors with <http://verify.tn.gov>** *State provides guidance on selecting contractors*

**NASHVILLE, TN** – In light of the historic flooding that has devastated parts of Tennessee, the Department of Commerce and Insurance (TDCI) is encouraging homeowners to verify the licensure of contractors they hire to repair their homes by using <http://verify.tn.gov>.

“It’s important for residents to not fall prey to fraud artists posing as legitimate, licensed home contractors,” says TDCI Commissioner Leslie A. Newman. “Taking the time to make sure someone is licensed with the state is the fundamental first step when selecting a contractor to work on your home. By all means, use <http://verify.tn.gov> to see whether the person you’re considering is a licensed contractor.”

When selecting a contractor, it is also important to:

- Get several bids. It’s best to get at least three bids and check references.
- Get a written contract that includes the company’s name, address and telephone number. The contract should also include an anticipated start and completion date.
- Take your time and do not get rushed into signing a contract.
- Never pay more than 1/3 down and do not let the payments get ahead of the work.
- Ask for proof of general liability insurance.
- Make sure the contractor obtains the local permits for inspections.

Tennesseans can also check the Department’s monthly Disciplinary Action Reports to see if contractors have engaged in unlicensed activity or have incurred administrative action taken against them by the Department.

Licensing for contractors also carries parameters that govern the types of jobs different licensees are permitted to perform.

The Department of Commerce and Insurance works to protect consumers while ensuring fair competition for industries and professionals who do business in Tennessee. [www.tn.gov/commerce/](http://www.tn.gov/commerce/)

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