

Protect Yourself from Home Improvement Scams

Be aware of various ruses that have been used to gain entry to homes, including posing as utility representatives, selling home improvement services, asking for a drink of water and so on. In years past, victims have been working in their yards while opportunists enter their homes through unlocked doors.

To prevent the chances of being victimized, homeowners are urged to observe the following precautions:

- Request identification from utility representatives – true representatives carry ID and will gladly show it to you. Call their companies for verification.

- Beware of home improvement companies soliciting from door-to-door. It's more cost effective for companies to advertise, distribute fliers or make phone calls.
- Never pay cash. Using a check keeps a record of the transaction.
- Beware of excuses such as “We just finished a job around the corner and had extra materials that we could offer you at a discounted price.”
- Always ask for references and contact them before engaging services.