Thinking about making some home improvements?

If you are planning on hiring a contractor, or if you already have…

You need to read this.

HOME IMPROVEMENT CHECK LIST

- ✓ Make sure your contractor is currently registered with the Massachusetts Board of Building Regulations and Standards. Check the contractor lookup at **http://db.state.ma.us/bbrs/hic.pl** or contact the BBRS directly at **(617) 727-3200.**
- ✓ Check out your contractor's references.
- ✓ Make sure your contractor applies for and obtains the building permit. If you apply for the permit, you may not be eligible for compensation from the Guaranty Fund.
- ✓ Insist on a written, detailed contract. This will protect you and help ensure that both you and your contractor understand the scope and cost of the project.
- ✓ Make sure you get a copy of your contractor's insurance.
- ✓ Pay no more than one-third of the contract cost up front unless special order materials are needed.

About the Law

The **Home Improvement Contractor Law** (M.G.L.c142A) has established an arbitration program for resolving disputes between homeowners and registered contractors. Massachusetts has a **Guaranty Fund** to compensate consumers up to $10,000 (for actual losses incurred) for unpaid judgments against home improvement contractors.

To obtain applications for arbitration, the **Guaranty Fund**, a sample contract or more information about the **Home Improvement Contractor Law** contact the Office of Consumer Affairs at **(617) 973-8787** or **Toll Free (888) 283-3757** or visit our web site at **www.Mass.Gov/homeimprovement**.

Massachusetts Office of Consumer Affairs and Business Regulation

Beth Lindstrom, Director

Mitt Romney, Governor

Kerry Healey, Lt. Governor

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