

Your home or business is an investment. The Building Inspections Department would like to offer tips and reminders on selecting a contractor to perform your home or business repairs. Selecting the right contractor can help safeguard your home and reduce the need for future repairs.

A permit is your legal permission to start construction. Without a permit; your project may not comply with the adopted building codes, reduce the value of your investment or yet, be unsafe. If you need assistance with permitting or have question about building code please call 817-426-9630 or visit the [Building Inspections webpage](#) .

- Get a written estimate from several licensed contractors. Be sure that the estimate includes all work to be done by the contractor, the material involved, date of completion and the total cost.
- Beware of contractors who ask to be paid in cash or ask for large payments up front.
- Ask the contractor if they are pulling the appropriate permits for the job and if it will be inspected. If they say NO, it should be a RED FLAG.
- Be wary of contractors soliciting business door-to-door.
- Beware of anyone that asks you to obtain the building permit as an “owner / builder” in place of them obtaining the proper permits.
- Also, beware of people that claim that you will save quite a bit of money by not obtaining a permit. A permit will only lead to compliance with the appropriate building codes, these are only minimum requirements.
- Verify that the contractor is licensed by asking them to produce credentials. The State of Texas requires that electricians, plumbers, heating & air conditioning contractors, and irrigation contractors must be licensed. They must carry a license on them and their vehicles must be identified with their state license number affixed to the vehicle.
 - Texas State Board of Plumbing Examiners – [Plumbing Contractors](#)
 - Texas Department of Licensing Regulations - [Electricians and Heating & Air Conditioning Constructors](#)
 - The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality - [Irrigators](#)
- Before the project begins, insist on seeing the permit issued by the City. During the course of construction, monitor your contractor’s inspection records. This will protect you from being responsible for code violations and ensure project completion.