

# TAKE! CHARGE! CALIFORNIA

800-952-5210

WWW.TAKECHARGECA.CA.GOV



**BE SMART. BE SAFE. BE HEARD.**

# TAKE CHARGE! of Your Home Improvement

**Hire Only Licensed Contractors.** Check a contractor's license number online at [www.cslb.ca.gov](http://www.cslb.ca.gov) or by calling (800) 321-CSLB (2752).

**Do Your Homework!** It's a smart idea to get at least three bids from different contractors.

**See the Results!** Get three references from each bidder and take the time to visit and review past work in person.

**Get it in Writing!** Make sure all project expectations are in writing and only sign the contract if you completely understand the terms.

**Are They Covered?** Confirm that the contractor has workers' compensation insurance for his or her employees.

**How Much Up Front?** Never pay more than 10% down or \$1,000, whichever is less. Don't pay in cash and never let payments get ahead of the work.

**You're the Boss!** It's a good idea to keep a job file of all papers relating to your project, including all payments.

**Pay for What You Get!** Don't make the final payment until you're satisfied with the job. Final payments mean just that! It's done!

## Take Charge of Hiring a Contractor!

If you have a construction-related complaint, or believe your contractor has violated the Contractors License Law, file a complaint with the Contractors State License Board or call the DCA Consumer Information Center at (800) 952-5210.

*Sponsored by the Contractors State License Board and the California Department of Consumer Affairs*