



[www.cslb.ca.gov/seniors](http://www.cslb.ca.gov/seniors)

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# What Seniors Should Know About Construction Scams

# About CSLB

- Protects California consumers
- Licenses nearly 285,000 contractors in 44 different classifications



CSLB Headquarters, Sacramento, CA

# SENIORS ARE TARGETED IN CONSTRUCTION SCAMS



Seniors are trusting, which can make them vulnerable



Unlicensed contractors will try to manipulate seniors

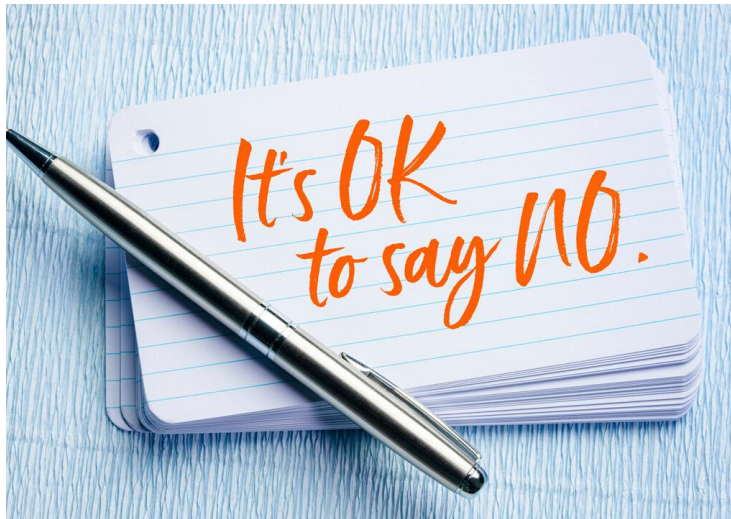


Scammers attracted to seniors' life savings and pensions





Do not answer your door to strangers selling their services



Just say no, and keep saying no



Do not make any cash payments

## HOW TO AVOID COMMON CONSTRUCTION SCAMS

# HOW TO AVOID COMMON CONSTRUCTION SCAMS



Get everything in writing;  
verbal agreements are not  
binding

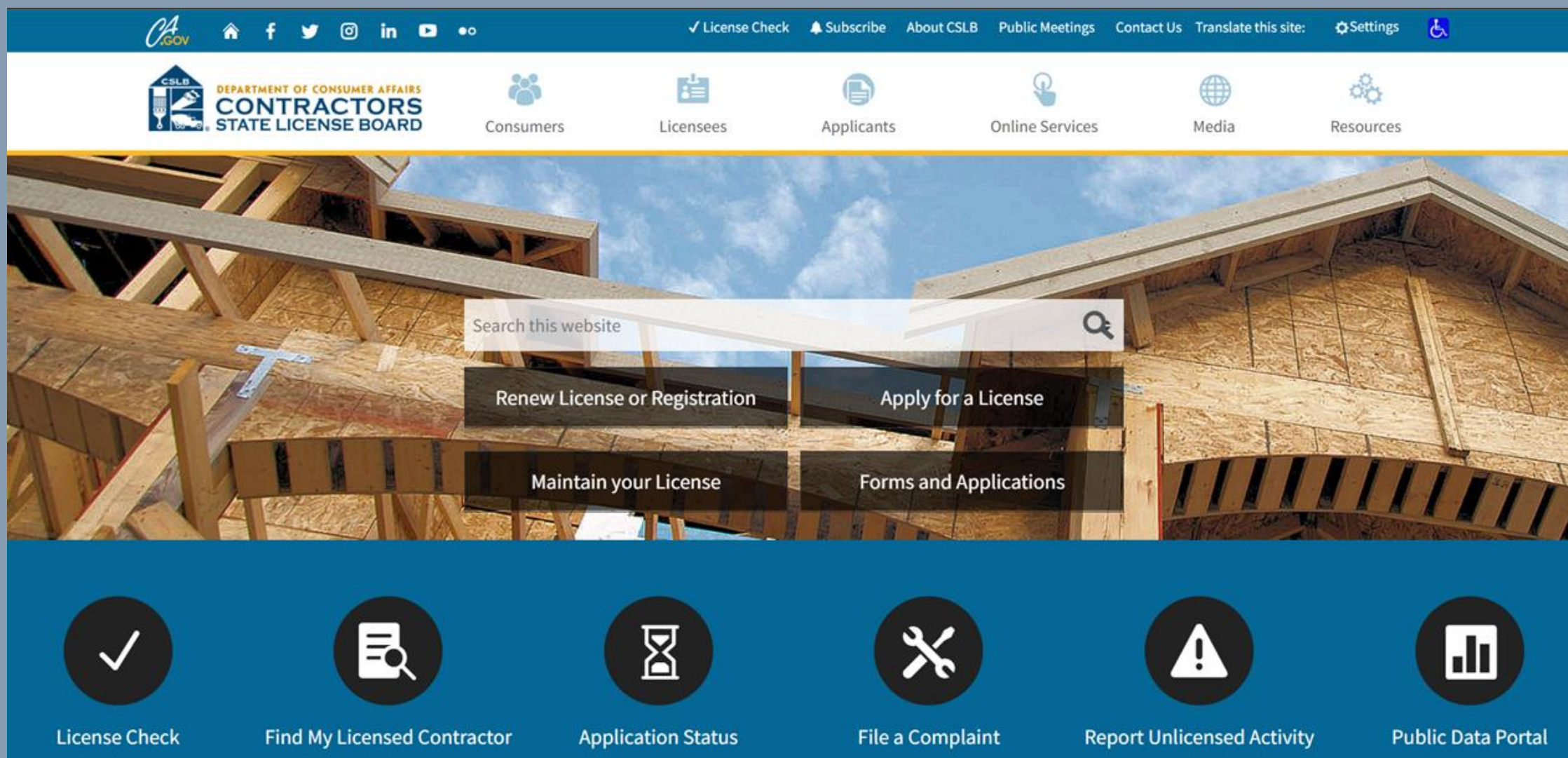


Down payments can only be  
10% or \$1,000 of the  
contract price - whichever is  
less!

ALWAYS check the contractor license number to  
make sure it is current and in good standing at  
[www.cslb.ca.gov](http://www.cslb.ca.gov) or by calling 800-321-CSLB (2752)

# IF YOU'VE BEEN SCAMMED

- Call CSLB: 1-800-321-CSLB (2752), or
- Visit [www.cslb.ca.gov](http://www.cslb.ca.gov), "File a Complaint" on the homepage, or
- Email: [cslbinfo@cslb.ca.gov](mailto:cslbinfo@cslb.ca.gov)



# TIPS FOR HIRING THE RIGHT CONTRACTOR

- Get at least three bids
- Ask to see the contractor's **pocket license** and current **photo ID**
- Ask for proof of their liability and workers compensation insurance
- Make sure to get a detailed written contract before you make a down payment, and before work begins
- Don't let payments get ahead of the work. Don't pay for work that has not been completed to your





# TIPS FOR HIRING THE RIGHT CONTRACTOR (CONTINUED)

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- Pay no more than 10% of the total contract price, or \$1,000 - whichever is less
- Keep all project documents, payments, photographs in a job file
- Seniors have 4 years from the date of construction to file a complaint
- Ages 65+ have a five-day right to cancel any contract (California law)





# SOLAR PROJECTS & REMINDERS

[WWW.CSLB.CA.GOV/SOLARSMART](http://WWW.CSLB.CA.GOV/SOLARSMART)

## IS SOLAR RIGHT FOR YOU?

- Length of time in home
- Roof direction
- Do the math with solar
- Look at monthly statements



# SOLAR PROJECTS & REMINDERS

[WWW.CSLB.CA.GOV/SOLARSMART](http://WWW.CSLB.CA.GOV/SOLARSMART)



- Solar is not free
- Beware of financing programs:  
PACE, HERO, CHEEF, OR REEL
- High interest rates
- Tied to property taxes



# SOLAR PROJECTS & REMINDERS

WWW.CSLB.CA.GOV/SOLARSMART 

## PROTECT YOURSELF FROM SOLAR FRAUD

- Don't let payments get ahead of the work
- Get everything in writing
- Make sure you understand the contract terms



# ALWAYS CHECK A LICENSE & HIRE LICENSED CONTRACTORS FOR JOBS WORTH \$500 OR MORE FOR LABOR & MATERIALS

VISIT [WWW.CSLB.CA.GOV](http://WWW.CSLB.CA.GOV) OR CALL 800-321-CSLB (2752) TO CHECK A LICENSE AND/OR FIND A LICENSED CONTRACTOR IN YOUR AREA



License Check



Find My Licensed Contractor

**“The best ways seniors can protect themselves against construction fraud is to check a license on our website and always get at least three bids.”**

**- David R. Fogt, CSLB Registrar**



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