



Top 10 Tips for Seniors to Avoid a Home Repair Scam

Although Senior citizens are common target for hackers and scammers, everyone is vulnerable. It's important be vigilant and take the time to be a more educated consumer- whether it when it comes to home repair, vacation rentals, travel or any other type of scams. Here are the top 10 tips to help you avoid falling victim when it comes to hiring someone to do work in your home:

1. **Research the contractor:** Do some background research on the contractor before hiring them. Check their license, insurance, and reputation with the Better Business Bureau.
2. **Get multiple quotes:** Get at least three quotes from different contractors before making a decision. This will give you an idea of the fair market value for the work you need done.
3. **Don't pay upfront:** Never pay for the entire job upfront. Paying a deposit is acceptable, but make sure it's a reasonable amount.
4. **Avoid high-pressure sales tactics:** Scammers may use high-pressure sales tactics to get you to agree to work. Don't be rushed into making a decision. Take the time to review all the information and make an informed decision.
5. **Don't sign a contract without reading it:** Make sure you read and understand the contract before signing it. If there are any unclear terms, ask for clarification.
6. **Don't fall for the "discounts":** Scammers may offer discounts if you sign up immediately or pay in cash. Be wary of such offers and do not be lured into accepting them without understanding the full terms.
7. **Don't agree to unnecessary work:** Scammers may try to convince you that additional work is needed. Be cautious and seek a second opinion before agreeing to any additional work.
8. **Don't be swayed by credentials:** Scammers may present themselves as licensed professionals or show fake credentials. Verify any credentials before hiring a contractor.
9. **Don't allow unsolicited visits:** Be cautious of unsolicited visits from contractors or salespeople. Ask for their business card and research the company before scheduling any appointment.
10. **Get everything in writing:** Make sure that all work, costs, and warranties are clearly documented in writing. This will help protect you in case of any disputes or misunderstandings.