

# CHECKLIST FOR HOMEOWNERS HOME IMPROVEMENT

*Pursuant to California Business & Professions Code §7159.3 (SB 2029),  
home improvement contractors must provide this notice.*

## Check Out Your Contractor

- Did you contact the Contractors State License Board (CSLB) to check the status of the contractor's license?  
*Contact the CSLB at 1-800-321-CSLB (2752) or visit our web site: [www.cslb.ca.gov](http://www.cslb.ca.gov).*
- Did you get at least 3 local references from the contractors you are considering?  
*Did you call them?*
- Building Permits - will the contractor get a permit before the work starts?

## Check Out the Contract

- Did you read and do you understand your contract?
- Does the 3-day right to cancel a contract apply to you?  
*Contact the CSLB if you don't know.*
- Does the contract tell you when work will start and end?
- Does the contract include a detailed description of the work to be done, the material to be used, and equipment to be installed?  
*This description should include brand names, model numbers, quantities and colors.  
Specific descriptions now will prevent disputes later.*
- Are you required to pay a down payment?  
*If you are, the down payment should never be more than 10% of the contract price or \$1,000, whichever is less.*
- Is there a schedule of payments?  
*If there is a schedule of payments, you should pay only as work is completed and not before.  
There are some exceptions - contact the CSLB to find out what they are.*
- Did your contractor give you a "Notice to Owner," a warning notice describing liens and ways to prevent them?  
*Even if you pay your contractor, a lien can be placed on your home by unpaid laborers, subcontractors, or material suppliers.  
A lien can result in you paying twice or, in some cases, losing your home in a foreclosure.*
- Did you know changes or additions to your contract *must* all be in writing?  
*Putting changes in writing reduces the possibility of a later dispute.*