



**Oregon Construction Contractors Board**

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**CCB ramps up investigation efforts against unlicensed contractors**

Unlicensed contractors in Oregon may have a surprise waiting for them. The Construction Contractors Board (CCB) ramped up efforts to find unlicensed contractors.

In February the CCB partnered with Portland FOX affiliate (FOX 12) to conduct a sting in the Portland area. Last month, the CCB partnered with the Oregon Home Builders Association and conducted a sting in the Eugene/Springfield area.

Prior to the stings, the CCB obtained leads of unlicensed construction activity from advertisements, public complaints, Craig's list, public bulletin boards, and other unnamed sources.

In each operation, suspected unlicensed contractors were invited to offer bids for improvements and repairs. In Portland, CCB's Investigators and Compliance Officers received nine bids for construction work. All were found in violation of Oregon's construction contracting laws (working without a license). In Eugene, seven of the eight bids were found in violation.

"Illegal activity doesn't just hurt the consumer," says Robert Rambo, CCB Field Investigation Manager. "It hurts the legitimate contractors that work hard to stay in compliance only to get undercut by those who don't. The CCB is committed to finding and penalizing those working illegally."

The CCB has stepped up its proactive efforts throughout the state to address illegal activity. These efforts include random jobsite checks at any given time, on any day of the week; multi-agency enforcement sweeps (saturation of targeted areas to check jobsites for illegal activities); and additional enforcement stings.

“These efforts are designed to address unlicensed activity, as well as other illegal practices that may put Oregon workers at risk, and provide an unfair competitive advantage to outlaw contractors hiring workers under the table,” says Craig P. Smith, CCB Administrator. “The CCB shares its findings with other state agencies to help penalize violators to the fullest extent of the law.”

Contractors and consumers can report illegal activity on the CCB’s website or by calling the agency at 503-378-4621.

The CCB strongly encourages consumers to verify that a contractor is actively licensed. Consumers can easily check the license and complaint history at [www.oregon.gov/CCB](http://www.oregon.gov/CCB) or by calling 503-378-4621.

Anyone who does repairs, remodeling or new construction must be licensed with the CCB. This includes painting, roofing, carpentry, siding, plumbing, electrical, floor covering, concrete, window, insulation, manufactured dwelling installation, concrete, inspection services, heating and air conditioning, and most other construction and repair services.

Licensed contractors have a bond and insurance that offer some financial protections to the public. Homeowners may also be able to get help from the CCB to resolve construction-related disputes. These protections are only available if the contractor is properly licensed with the CCB.

Consumers can pick up more tips on having a successful construction project with CCB’s *16 Ways to Avoid Remodeling, Repair and Construction Problems*. The free booklet is available at [www.oregon.gov/CCB](http://www.oregon.gov/CCB) or by calling 503-378-4621.

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