



**Department of Planning,
Zoning & Building**

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"An Equal Opportunity
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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE ON: September 19, 2017

PALM BEACH COUNTY PLANNING, ZONING & BUILDING Hurricane Irma - Hiring of Contractors

Home repairs/contractors: In the aftermath of Hurricane Irma many citizens may need to make home repairs. Please note that many home repairs by law must be performed by licensed contractors and with the issuance of building code permits. Hiring an unlicensed contractor and not obtaining building permits, while possibly saving a little money, could result in one or more of the following:

- Paying for the work twice for poor workmanship, not meeting building codes and lack of building permits
- Inability to recover funds from your insurance
- Possible code enforcement actions with daily fine
- Inability to obtain Federal and State assistance

Warning signs of unlicensed contractors:

- Newspaper/flyers ads with no contractor name and license number
- Display of a Business Tax Receipt instead of a real contractor's license
- Demand for a large down payment
- Requesting you to obtain the permits instead of the contractor
- Oral contracts only
- Contractor prefers to work after hours or weekends only
- Unable to or cannot show you their general liability and workers compensation insurance certificate.

Contractor/permit verification: We urge you to verify if your home repair requires a licensed contractor; that the contractor you are hiring is licensed and whether you need to obtain a building permit. You may contact us at:

Contractors Certification Division

Tel: (561) 233-5525

Website: <http://discover.pbcgov.org/pzb/contractors>

Building Division

Tel: (561) 233-5120

Website: <http://discover.pbcgov.org/pzb/building>