



SCAM ALERT!

A Consumer Update from
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Victim of Storm Damage? Don't be a victim of storm damage repair!

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As the weather turns warmer, spring storms can often cause damage to your property. The recent hailstorm in the Miami Valley left a wide path of damage. This is also the time home repair scammers spring into action. These dishonest persons cruise neighborhood streets saying they are looking for work, but what they really are looking for are victims. Many times they offer cut-rate deals on asphalt paving, roof work, landscaping, tree removal or other needed repairs. While the price may sound good, they typically ask for upfront payment and then never complete the promised repairs.

Keep in mind that legitimate contractors rarely go door-to-door looking for business. There are some simple ways to protect yourself :

If you are approached by a "repairman":

- Ask for references; names and telephone numbers of persons they have worked for in the past.
- Take your time before you make a decision. Don't give in to high-pressure sales tactics.
- Ask for a contract that you can review with a trusted friend, family member, or attorney.
- Don't make large down payments.
- Avoid paying in cash or by check. Credit cards offer stronger protection if something goes wrong.

If you need repair work done:

- Ask family, friends, or neighbors who they would recommend.
- Find a reputable contractor by calling the Better Business Bureau.

The above ALERT is part of the Montgomery County Prosecuting Attorney's initiative to help citizens become aware of ways they can avoid becoming a victim, or ways they can help stop criminal activity that may be occurring. Upon request, the office can provide presentations on crime prevention actions and activities to halt crime and increase the quality of life in our community.

If you would like additional information on the above ALERT, or would like additional information regarding our programs to assist consumers in general and/or seniors in particular, please contact Jennifer Heapy, Supervising Attorney, Adult Protection Unit, or Sarah Schenck, Supervising Attorney, Fraud and Economic Crimes Unit at 937-225-5757.