



Minnesota State Contractor License Law

Notice to Homeowners: Be Sure Your Contractor is Licensed

Know Your Rights

The State of Minnesota has adopted a statewide "Contractor and Remodeler License Law." This law is designed to protect the consumer by requiring that contractors be licensed with the State. Contractors must apply to the State, post a bond, and show proof of insurance and competency. The law gives homeowners reasonable assurance that they are dealing with a reputable, professional contractor, and a place they can call to get general contractor information.

Getting Information on a Contractor

Contractors, with a few exceptions, who contract with a homeowner to perform home construction, remodeling, or repair, must be licensed with the Minnesota Department of Commerce. Homeowners can call the Commerce Department Licensing Division at 651/296-6319 to obtain information on a specific contractor. Contractors must display their license number on their advertising and they must make it available to consumers. Building permits cannot be granted to contractors who are not properly licensed by the state.

Exceptions to Being Licensed

State law exempts contractors who have gross annual receipts from the construction business of less than \$15,000.00. Also exempt are some specialty contractors who perform only one specialty skill. The Commerce Department is attempting to gain further authority from the Legislature and hopes to license specialty contractors in the future.

Homeowner Rights if a Contractor is Not Licensed

If your contractor is required to be licensed by the State of Minnesota and you find that he/she is not, you may still have recourse under the law. Generally, the law provides that a contractor who is working in violation of the Minnesota State License Law has no lien rights and may not be able to enforce a contract signed with a homeowner. If you find yourself in this situation, you should consult with an attorney to get sound legal advice. You should never knowingly hire someone who is deliberately violating the State License Law.

Working on Your Own Home

You can obtain permits to do work on your own home. The License Law was written to insure a reasonable degree of protection for you as the consumer of construction services, not to discourage homeowners from doing work on their own property. For your safety, building permits are required for most construction projects. (Permits are generally not required for painting, decorating, carpeting, or similar work.)

For more information on State Licensing, contact the Builders Association of Minnesota at 800/654-7783 or 651/646-7959; or the Minnesota Department of Commerce at 800/657-3602 or 651/296-4026.