



CALIFORNIA  
CONTRACTORS  
STATE LICENSE BOARD  
www.cslb.ca.gov

## Preamble

*The Contractors State License Board reminds you to exercise your rights and responsibilities when making home improvements. As a California consumer, you have the following rights when working with contractors:*

### HIRING A CONTRACTOR

- You have the right to hire only licensed contractors and to check the license through the Contractors State License Board at [www.cslb.ca.gov](http://www.cslb.ca.gov).
- You have the right to review a contractor's past work and to check references.
- You have the right to get at least three bids from licensed contractors before hiring a contractor.

### PROJECT PAYMENTS

- You have the right to make a down payment of no more than 10 percent of the project price or \$1,000, whichever is less.
- You have the right to make payments as work is completed.
- You have the right not to pay cash for home improvement projects.
- You have the right to withhold a final payment until the work agreed to in the contract is completed.

### PROJECT PAPERWORK

- You have the right to require that the contract include one project price, which includes labor and materials.
- You have the right to negotiate a clear contract that includes a written payment schedule and completion date.
- You have the right to review the contract and only sign it when you understand the terms.
- You have the right to require your contractor to obtain a building permit for your project.

### CONSUMER RESPONSIBILITIES

As a consumer, you have these rights, but you also have the responsibility to properly plan and manage your project and to insist on your rights.



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