



TOWN OF AMHERST

BUILDING DEPARTMENT

ERIE COUNTY, NEW YORK

5583 MAIN STREET
WILLIAMSVILLE, NEW YORK 14221

PHONE: (716) 631-7080
FAX: (716) 631-7192

BRIAN P. ANDRZEJEWSKI, P.E.
Commissioner of Building

PRESS RELEASE

July 1, 2016

The Town of Amherst Building Department would like to remind all residents to be aware of unscrupulous contractors that approach homeowners with propositions to perform repair work that is not necessary.

The Town of Amherst Building Department has a Home Improvement Contractor Registration Program to insure the legitimacy of a contractor who performs home improvement construction (such as porches, decks, additions, plumbing and electrical work), repairs (such as roofing and siding), as well as other construction related activities. This program serves to verify that the registered contractor is properly insured. It further identifies the responsible person or people who operate the specific contracting business. A list of the registered Home Improvement Contractors can be viewed on the Town of Amherst website, www.amherst.ny.us.

Section 83-4-9 of the Town's Building Construction Administration Code is designed to protect both residents and contractors from the actions of a few that prey on homeowners and perform work that was not needed or is deficient.

Every year there are instances throughout the Town where homeowners have been scammed for a substantial amount of money with very little work or no work being completed. Recently, there have also been cases that were prevented by the timely intervention of the Town of Amherst Police Department and Building Departments.

The Town of Amherst Building Department is advising all homeowners to verify compliance with the Home Improvement Contractor Registration Program prior to entering into a contract to have any work done. We recommend homeowners to not make any payments until the contractor can provide proof of insurance, a copy of a valid permit and a detailed contract that describes the work to be performed, including an itemized list of all pricing (such as labor and materials). Do not be intimidated or coerced into agreeing to pay for shoddy or unnecessary work.

Do not hesitate to call the Building or Police Department if any doubt exists with regard to the legitimacy of a contractor. This can be especially important in relation to unsolicited contact from a contractor.