

# KNOW

## BEFORE YOU HIRE A CONTRACTOR

- The Department of Buildings, along with its partner Continental Testing Services administers 12 trade license and registration types for more than 29,000 licensees. On our website page, you can also access links to find licensed contractors.

### TRADE LICENSING & GENERAL CONTRACTOR

- General Contractors doing work in the city of Chicago must have a General Contractor license from the city of Chicago.
- A complete list of 12 trades that require a Chicago license can be found at: [http://www.cityofchicago.org/city/en/depts/bldgs/provdrs/gen\\_contract.html](http://www.cityofchicago.org/city/en/depts/bldgs/provdrs/gen_contract.html)
- General Contractors are required to have insurance. Be sure to get a copy of your contractor's insurance policy before you start your construction project.
- Homeowner's are responsible for obtaining a building permit, if required. To check if you are required to have a permit, please visit: [http://www.cityofchicago.org/city/en/depts/bldgs/supp\\_info/a\\_guide\\_to\\_gettingstartedapermitoverview.html](http://www.cityofchicago.org/city/en/depts/bldgs/supp_info/a_guide_to_gettingstartedapermitoverview.html)
- The Department of Buildings' Homeowner's Assistance Program offers special permit services for owner-occupants of single-family homes through the Homeowner Assistance Plan Review. More information is on the DOB website at: [http://www.cityofchicago.org/city/en/depts/bldgs/provdrs/stand\\_plan/svcs/home\\_owner\\_assistance.html](http://www.cityofchicago.org/city/en/depts/bldgs/provdrs/stand_plan/svcs/home_owner_assistance.html).
- It is important to get references of past projects completed by a general contractor.
- Obtain a bid from more than one contractor so that you may compare pricing.

### CHECK TO MAKE SURE YOUR CONTRACTOR IS LICENSED AT:

[http://www.cityofchicago.org/city/en/depts/bldgs/provdrs/gen\\_contract.html](http://www.cityofchicago.org/city/en/depts/bldgs/provdrs/gen_contract.html)

### FILE A CONSUMER COMPLAINT:

312-744-6060 • [www.cityofchicago.org/BACP](http://www.cityofchicago.org/BACP)

