

TIPS FOR CONSUMERS

There are important steps that consumers can take to protect themselves before ever hiring an electrical contractor. You are encouraged to ask questions and protect yourself before hiring someone to do electrical work. Verify that the electrical contractor is licensed.

- Before hiring anyone to provide electrical work, check with the **Alabama Board of Electrical Contractors**. Also ask your **city and county** what license is required to do the work and if the person is licensed locally.
- Ask about the personnel who will be performing the work.
- Get an estimate from at least three individuals or companies for the work to be done and cost of materials to be used and equipment to be installed.
- When the electrical contractor has been selected, require a written contract detailing the work to be done, materials to be used, and equipment to be installed. Include the payment arrangements and timeline for when the work will be completed. Before signing the contract, be sure you understand the contract and any changes in the work should be noted in writing on the contract.
- When paying for the work, be cautious paying with cash or paying for work materials before the job begins. Don't make a large down payment. Don't make the final payment until the job is complete.
- Keep all of the paperwork on the work being performed to include estimate of work, signed contract, copy of checks/payments, photos of work while it is in progress.
- To safeguard and protect the public, the Alabama Board of Electrical Contractors has a comprehensive consumer complaint process. The consumer complaint form is available on the Board's website.