



Beware of Fraud at Your Home!

Many crimes against older adults involve home repairs or diversions where a person asks to use the phone or bathroom or to "check into" an unreported problem, and then steals personal belongings and affects.

Typical Home Frauds:

- Driveway and roof sealing
- Repair or replacement of brick or shingles
- Painting
- Landscaping
- Exterminating
- Power Washing
- "Seasonal" maintenance of heating and cooling systems

Observe These Guidelines:

- There is **NO SUCH THING** as "something for nothing"
- There is **NO SUCH THING** as a "deal that's too good to pass up"
- **NEVER** allow a stranger access to your home
- **All** legitimate Public Service/Works employees have badges – **Check them!**
- **NEVER** enter into a contract initiated "cold" by phone or in person
- **ALWAYS** get firm quotes in writing with detailed explanations of work to be performed ... wait at least 3 days ... talk with someone you trust if you have any questions.

Don't be pressured into signing Anything on the spot. Wait before you sign and talk with someone you trust!

Call local Law Enforcement **Immediately** if you suspect that someone is trying to defraud and/or to rob you.



Protect Yourself and Your Possessions

- Buy a shredder and **use it** for ANYTHING that has personally identifiable information
- Make copies of the contents of your wallet
- Keep a list of account information and contact information handy
- NEVER leave mail in the box to be picked up at your home
- DO NOT carry your Social Security Card on a regular basis
- Review your Credit Report at least once a year
- Tell those you do business with NOT to share your information
- NEVER print your SS# or Driver License# on checks
- Carry ONLY a minimum of credit cards with you
- Give out personal information ONLY when you initiate contact
- Remove your name from mailing, marketing, and phone lists
- Use a personal identifier for accounts OTHER than your Mother's maiden name
- FREE means: **FREE** ... **NO COST** to you ... **NONE**

USE COMMON SENSE

Trust has become a rare commodity that is no longer a general characteristic of society.