





Beware of Fraud at Your Home!

Many crimes against older adults involve <u>home repairs</u> or <u>diversions</u> 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 <u>Anything</u> on the spot. <u>Wait before you sign</u> 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 <u>use</u> <u>it</u> for <u>ANYTHING</u> 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 <u>NOT</u> to share your information
- ➤ <u>NEVER</u> 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 <u>OTHER</u> 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 <u>no longer</u> a general characteristic of society.