



# Wisconsin Builders Association

*Dedicated to Preserving and Promoting the American Dream*

[www.wisbuild.org](http://www.wisbuild.org)

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### BUILDERS ASSOCIATION TIPS ON HOW TO HIRE A QUALIFIED CONTRACTOR

**Madison** – The Wisconsin Builders Association urges citizens and communities affected by the recent severe weather to utilize [www.wisbuild.org](http://www.wisbuild.org) to obtain contact information for over 8,800 members of our professional trade organization. Statewide members represent all aspects of the home building industry including builders, remodelers, and associates who have the professional skills, education and credentials that are essential to meet the challenge of rebuilding and reestablishing daily life.

“Our members throughout the state share a bond with our friends and neighbors whose homes have been damaged by the recent flooding,” said WBA President Jason Steen, owner of Steen Construction. “As we come together to repair our homes and businesses we need to work together to ensure that our communities are not victimized by fraudulent ‘fly-by-night’ contractors.” Steen encouraged citizens to “look to the resources of your local and state builder association for names of qualified contractors that have established roots in your community.”

One of the untold costs associated with disasters are those losses due to fraud. Often unscrupulous contractors appear and further victimize the disaster victims by swindling them out of their precious and often limited resources. Be aware of these common tactics that should raise red flags:

- You’re told that on this job, a contract “won’t be necessary.”
- You’re asked to pay for the entire job “up front” — or pay cash to a salesperson instead of a check or money order to a company.
- You are confronted with scare tactics, intimidation or threats.
- You’re told you’ve been “chosen” as a demonstration project at a special, low price.
- You’re told a “special” low price is good only if you sign a contract today.
- The contractor won’t give you reference — or the references can’t be located.
- You can’t verify the contractor’s business address.

WBA suggests keeping the following advice in mind if you need to hire a contractor to perform repairs on any part of your home or business:

4868 High Crossing Boulevard Madison, WI 53704-7403  
Phone: (608) 242-5151 Fax: (608) 242-5150  
[www.wisbuild.org](http://www.wisbuild.org)

- Ask the contractor to present their Dwelling Contractor Certification and Dwelling Contractor Qualifier Certification cards provided by the [Wisconsin Department of Commerce](#). These are required to pull building permits in Wisconsin.
- Research how long the contractor has been in business.
- Contact the [Better Business Bureau](#) and see if the business has a record of unresolved complaints.
- Make sure you get a complete, clearly written contract for any work to be done. Do not rely on verbal agreements. All changes to the job should be put in writing before they occur.
- Do not pay any cash up front unless you have signed a valid contract.

Steen added "Our members are committed to their local communities, and adhere to a code of ethics that includes conducting business affairs with professionalism and skill, and complying with the rules and regulations prescribed by law and government agencies for the health, safety and welfare of the community."

For a complete list of WBA members, please visit our website [www.wisbuild.org](http://www.wisbuild.org) and click on Find A Member, or under About WBA, click on Local Home Builders Assoc. to find the association in your area.

The Wisconsin Builders Association® consists of 25 local associations throughout the state. It is an organization of more than 8,800 members committed to preserving and promoting the American dream of home ownership by working for quality, safe and affordable housing in Wisconsin.

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