

Repair Scams

Police Chief Fox wants all residents to be aware that when the weather becomes pleasant, then soon the "repair scam artists" will follow. Keep the following in mind:

If someone wanted to take your money, how would they get it?

The common crook might try a robbery or a burglary. The con artist or cheat is after your money, too. But they don't use a gun or physical force, they use fraud.

The Home Repair or Home Improvement Fraud:

Most con artists prey on senior citizens, who are most vulnerable.

Beware of the phony "repairman" who offers to check your roof, chimney, gutters, furnace, etc. and tells you that something is seriously wrong and must be repaired immediately.

Beware of the contractor who claims to be working in the neighborhood and has materials left over and offers to repair or resurface your driveway, or perform some other home repair.

- Be suspicious of any repairman whom you did not call.
- Ask for identification. Legitimate repairmen and utility personnel will have proper identification and will not be offended if you ask to see it.
- Don't be pressured into paying cash or signing a contract.
- Before you agree to anything, discuss it with a family friend or relative or your lawyer.
- If you are suspicious or have questions about any repairmen or any strangers at or near your home, get a license plate number and a description of the vehicle and call the police immediately.
- Remember that you won't recognize a con artist or swindler by the way he or she looks. But they are usually experts in human psychology and behavior. They know how to win over your confidence with smooth talking and a self-assured manner.
- If you are offered a deal that sounds too good to be true, chances are that is just the case - it is too good to be true, it is probably a swindle - call the police at 201-891-2121.