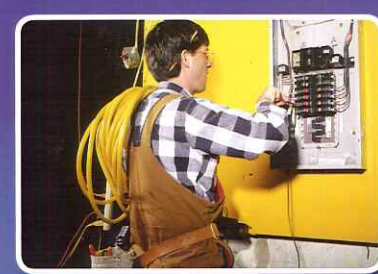
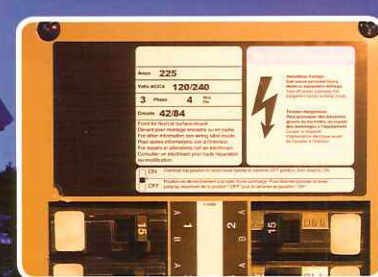
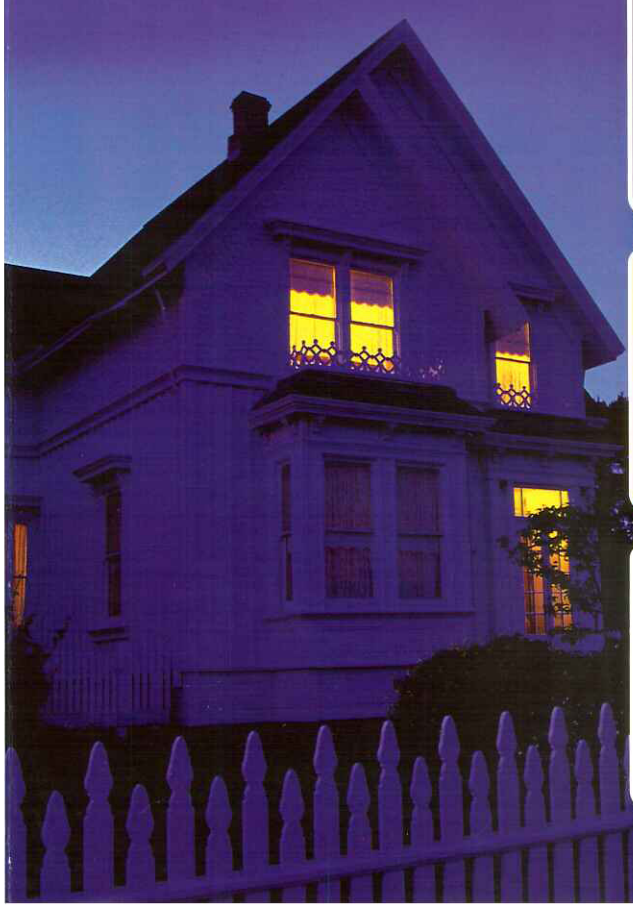
Protect Your Safety and Your Investment...

Hire Only Licensed Electrical and Alarm System Contractors





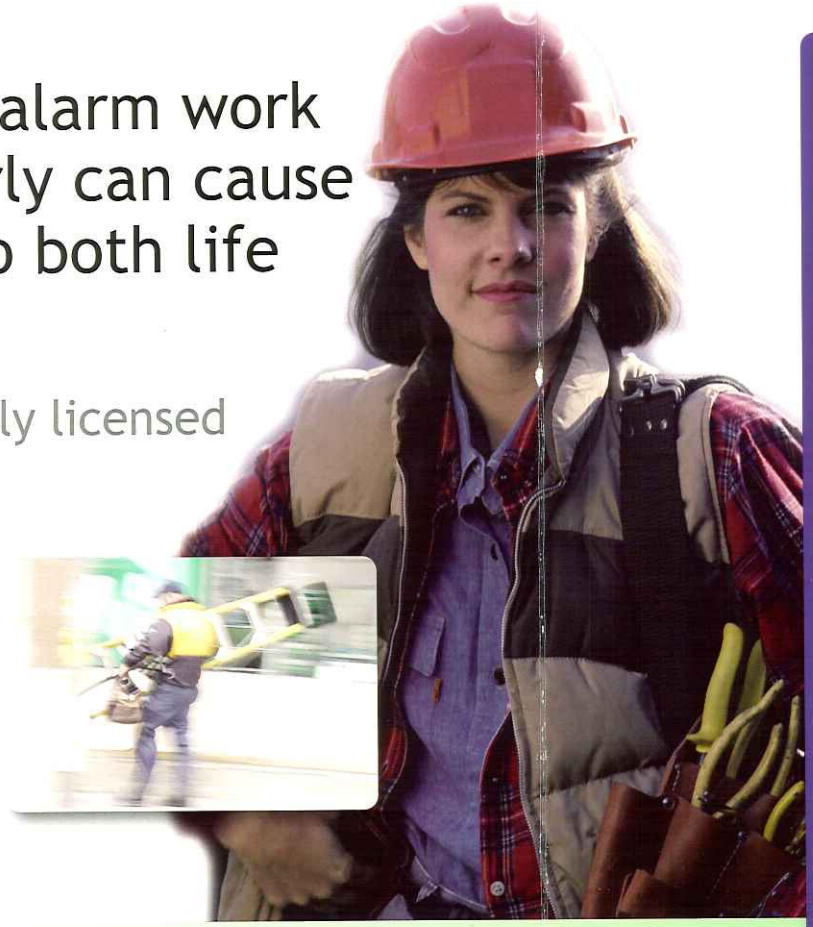


Florida Department of Business & Professional Regulation

Electrical and alarm work done improperly can cause severe harm to both life and property.

Be sure you hire only licensed contractors.

This type of work is so complex that Florida has developed stringent licensing requirements for those individuals providing these services. Florida's licensed electrical and alarm contractors are educated and tested to ensure their level of expertise and, in turn, your safety.



Florida law requires an electrical or alarm system license for:

>> Most electrical work or wiring other than simply plugging a power cord into an existing electrical outlet;

>> The installation and monitoring of all burglar and fire alarm systems;

>> The installation of generators when a contractor wires them directly to a structure;

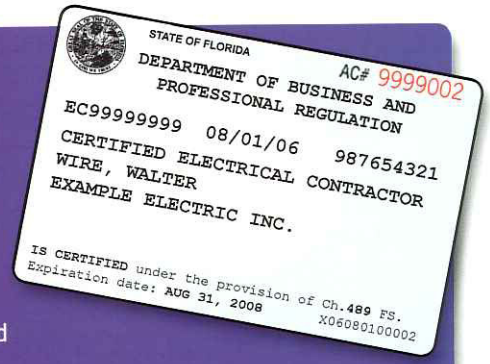
>> The installation or maintenance of electrical signs that do not simply plug into an existing outlet;

>> Limited energy systems such as low voltage electrical wiring and home entertainment and fiber optics when wired throughout a structure;

>> Adding outlets or light fixtures and changing electrical systems.

All of the above jobs typically require a permit. Be sure to check with your local building department regarding permit requirements for all of your projects.

Choosing a Contractor


STATE OF FLORIDA
DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL REGULATION
AC# 9999002
EC99999999 08/01/06 987654321
CERTIFIED ELECTRICAL CONTRACTOR
WIRE, WALTER
EXAMPLE ELECTRIC INC.
IS CERTIFIED under the provision of Ch. 489 FS.
Expiration date: AUG 31, 2008
X06080100002

>> Ask all potential contractors to see their state-issued licenses. Make sure a contractor's license is current and active.

>> Be sure the license looks like the example above. Ask to see multiple forms of identification.

>> An occupational license does NOT qualify an individual to act as a contractor.

>> Ask for references. A legitimate contractor will be happy to provide you with the names and contact information of recent customers.

>> Get a written estimate from several licensed contractors. Make sure the estimate includes the work the contractor will do, the materials involved, the completion date and the total cost.

Signing a Contract

Before you sign a contract, be certain it includes:

>> The contractor's name, street address, telephone number and state license number;

>> A precise description of work to be completed;

>> The completion date, including cleanup after the work is finished;

>> Warranty agreements, including length, terms and recourse.

Some Helpful Tips:

>> Read your contract carefully and personally fill in any blank spaces. Consider having an attorney review the contract. If you do not have an attorney, the Florida Bar offers an attorney referral service.

>> Don't sign off that the work is completed until all work is finished according to your contract and the contractor has cleared all permits with final inspection approval from the building department

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Warning Signs

Beware of contractors purporting to be the fastest or the cheapest, because hiring them may result in poor workmanship, inferior materials or unfinished jobs. Such claims are also warning signs of unlicensed activity.

>> Unlicensed individuals often target the uninformed and inexperienced, as well as the elderly.

>> Unlicensed individuals frequently travel in unmarked vehicles, soliciting door to door.

>> They often give a post office box address instead of a street address.

>> They demand large payments up front, ask for cash payments, ask for full payment before the work is completed, and convince homeowners to get the necessary building permits.

To VERIFY A CONTRACTOR'S LICENSE or FILE A COMPLAINT against a contractor, call 1.850.487.1395 or go to the department's website at: www.MyFloridaLicense.com.

To REPORT UNLICENSED ACTIVITY: Call toll-free, 1.866.532.1440.

To contact the FLORIDA BAR ATTORNEY REFERRAL SERVICES, call toll-free, 1.800.342.8011.

Florida Department of Business & Professional Regulation

License efficiently. Regulate fairly.

1940 N. Monroe St.
Tallahassee, Florida 32399