

NEWS FROM SCDC

South Carolina Department of Consumer Affairs



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AFTER HOURS TO DISCUSS CONTRACTORS' MYTHS AND SCAMS

Columbia, SC...The South Carolina Department of Consumer Affairs (SCDCA) will host this month's "After Hours" seminar on Tuesday, May 15, 2007, at 5:45 p.m. on the second floor of the Department located at 3600 Forest Drive in Columbia. The seminar, "**Contractors: Myths & Scams,**" will address current and ongoing practices in the industry that deceive consumers and often result in financial loss.

SCDCA Director of Consumer Services and Education Donna DeMichael will discuss common scams and sales tactics that consumers should avoid. Contractors often use scams that deplete the home equity an owner may have acquired over time. Other scams include overpricing shoddy work and requiring full payment before the work is completed. Consumers should be cautious of sale pitches that offer one-day only special deals, help financing a project, or the use of discounted, leftover materials to name just a few. Consumers are encouraged to attend "**Contractors: Myths & Scams**" to learn more.

SCDCA "After Hours" is a monthly public information session held on the third Tuesday of each month to provide consumers with relevant education on consumer issues. For more information, contact the SCDCA Public Information Division at 803.734.4190, toll-free at 1.800.922.1594 or online at www.sconsumer.gov.

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About the South Carolina Department of Consumer Affairs:

Established by the Consumer Protection code in 1974, The South Carolina Department of Consumer Affairs represents the interests of South Carolina Consumers. Our mission is to protect consumers from inequities in the marketplace through advocacy, mediation, enforcement and education.

For more information, visit www.sconsumer.gov.
