

# SENIOR SCAM STOPPER<sup>SM</sup>

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CONTRACTORS STATE LICENSE BOARD

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Outreach Coordinator



# ABOUT US:

## Contractors State License Board



- License California Contractors
- Enforce Construction Laws
- Protect **YOU** from Home Improvement Scams





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HELPS 1,000s OF SENIORS  
YEAR-ROUND



## Topics Covered

- Why are Seniors Targeted in Scams
- Scam Tactics
- What to Know Before You Hire a Contractor
- What to Know About Construction Jobs
- How to File a Complaint and Check a License
- Resources for Seniors



# WHAT SENIORS SHOULD KNOW BEFORE HIRING A CONTRACTOR

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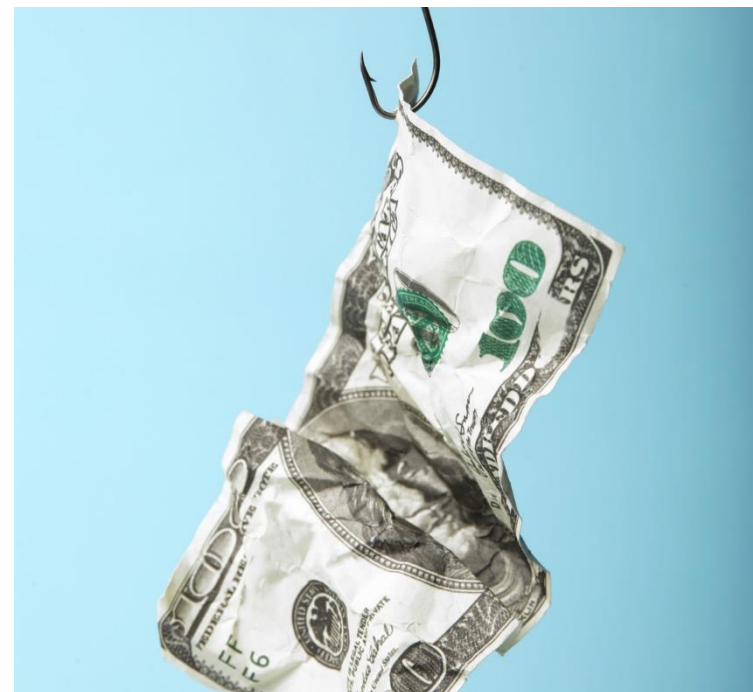
# SENIORS ARE TARGETED IN CONSTRUCTION SCAMS



You're trusting and often alone which can make you vulnerable



People will try to manipulate you



Scammers are attracted to any amount of money they can obtain



Do not answer your door  
to strangers



Just say no, and keep  
saying no



Do not make cash  
payments

## HOW TO AVOID COMMON CONSTRUCTION SCAMS

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# HOW TO AVOID COMMON CONSTRUCTION SCAMS



Projects priced at \$1,000 or more require a licensed contractor



Get the sales pitch in writing; verbal agreements are not binding



Down payments cannot exceed 10% or \$1,000 of the contract price - whichever is less!

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# BEFORE HIRING A CONTRACTOR

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- Get at least three (3) bids
- Ask to see the **pocket license** and **photo ID**
- Ask for proof of insurance (liability and workers' comp)
- Get a detailed written contract
- Don't let payments get ahead of the work
- Don't pay for work that's not up to your standards





# BEFORE HIRING A CONTRACTOR

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- Down payments: **CANNOT** exceed 10% or \$1,000 of the total contract price, whichever is less!
- Keep all project documents: photos, emails, text messages, contract, and receipts
- All consumers have 4 years from the date of construction to file a complaint
- Ages 65+ have a five-day right to cancel a contract  
(California law)



# ADUs: What to Know

- Is an ADU right for you?
- ADU stands for Accessory Dwelling Unit
- Do your research and compare your options before you speak to a contractor
- Research local regulations, zoning laws, and permit requirements
- Down payments **CANNOT** exceed 10% or \$1,000 of the total contract price, labor and materials included
- Additional payments should **ONLY** be for work completed or materials delivered

# PROTECT YOURSELF FROM SOLAR FRAUD

[WWW.CSLB.CA.GOV/SOLAR](http://WWW.CSLB.CA.GOV/SOLAR)

SCAN ME



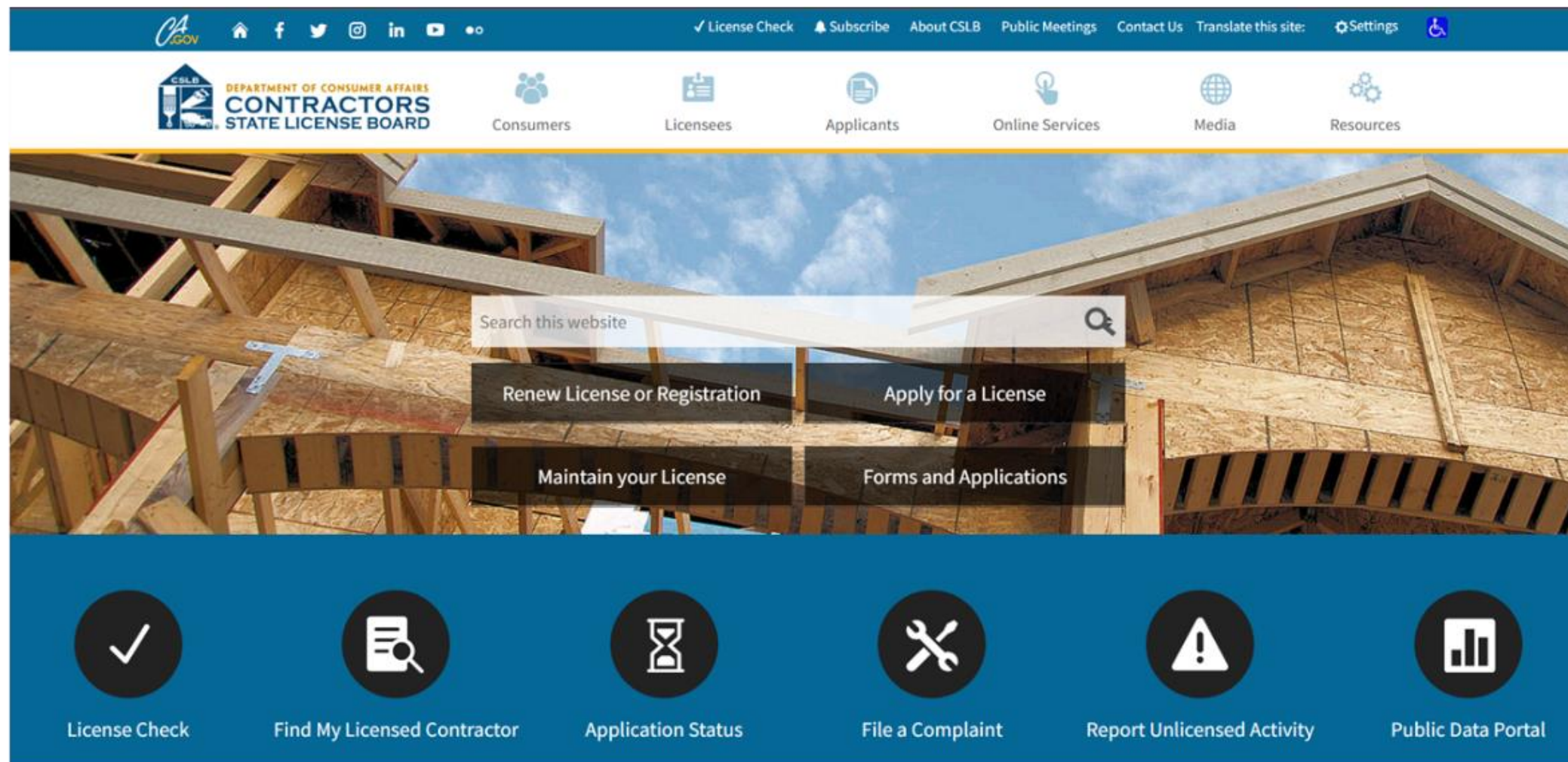
- Solar is not free
- Check the license first
- Review the contract closely and get everything in writing
- Make sure you understand the contract terms





# IF YOU'VE BEEN SCAMMED

- Call CSLB: 1-800-321-CSLB (2752), or
- Visit [www.cslb.ca.gov](http://www.cslb.ca.gov), "File a Complaint" on the homepage, or
- Email: [cslbinfo@cslb.ca.gov](mailto:cslbinfo@cslb.ca.gov)



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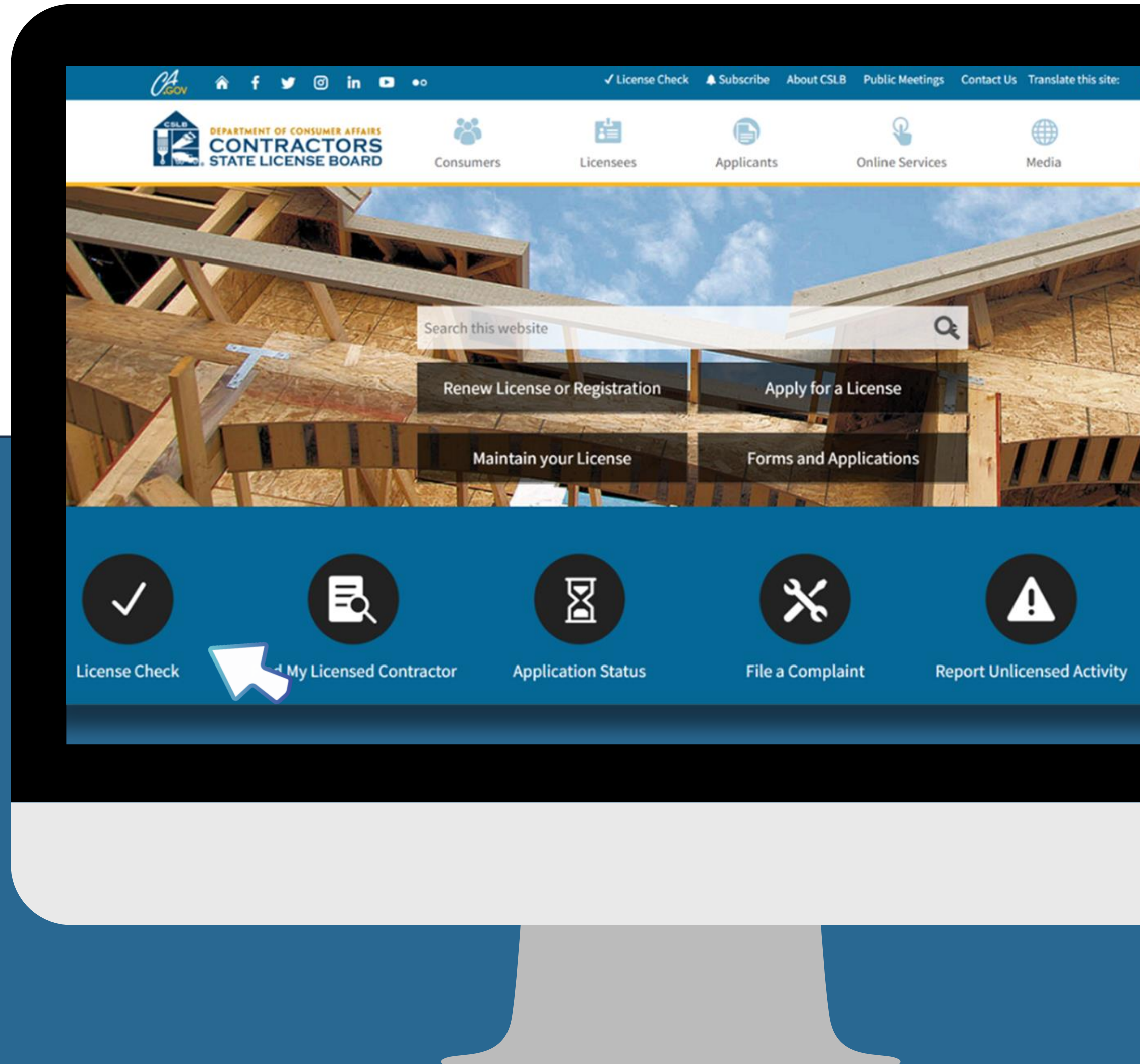




# CHECK A LICENSE



[WWW.CSLB.CA.GOV/LICENSECHECK](http://WWW.CSLB.CA.GOV/LICENSECHECK)





# CHECK A LICENSE

Look up a license by using any one of the following:

- License Number
- Business Name
- Personnel Name
- Home Improvement Sales (HIS) Number
- HIS Name

complaint disclosure. Before hiring a contractor or signing a contract, CSLB recommends you read the [HIS Contractor](#) page.



Enter the contractor license number to check the status of their license.

Contractor License #

Q SEARCH

## ➡ SEARCH TIPS

A California contractor license number doesn't contain alphabetic characters. Each contractor's plastic p  
license will show the respective license number. Begin entry of your license number at the left position a

# CHECK A LICENSE

## License Profiles Include:

- Business Contact
- License Status
- Classifications
- Bond Information
- Workers' Compensation Information

CA.GOV

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CSLB

DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS

CONTRACTORS

STATE LICENSE BOARD

[Consumers](#)[Licensees](#)[Applicants](#)[On](#)

Business Information

Business Name

Address

Phone Number

BUSINESS PHONE NUMBER (909) 212-2000

Entity

Corporation

Issue Date

11/13/2014

Expire Date

11/30/2016

License Status

This license is expired and not able to contract at this time.

Classifications

C46 - SOLAR

Bonding Information

Contractor's Bond

This license filed a Contractor's Bond with [AMERICAN CONTRACTORS INDEMNITY COMPANY](#).

Bond Number:

100259779

Bond Amount:

\$12,500

Effective Date:

10/09/2014

Cancellation Date:

11/08/2015

Bond of Qualifying Individual

The qualifying individual OSCAR MARTINEZ certified that he/she owns 10 percent or more of the voting stock/membership interest of this company; therefore, the Bond of Qualifying Individual is not required.

Effective Date:

11/13/2014

Workers' Compensation

This license is exempt from having workers compensation insurance; they certified that they have no employees at this





# RESOURCES

[www.cslb.ca.gov/seniors](http://www.cslb.ca.gov/seniors)

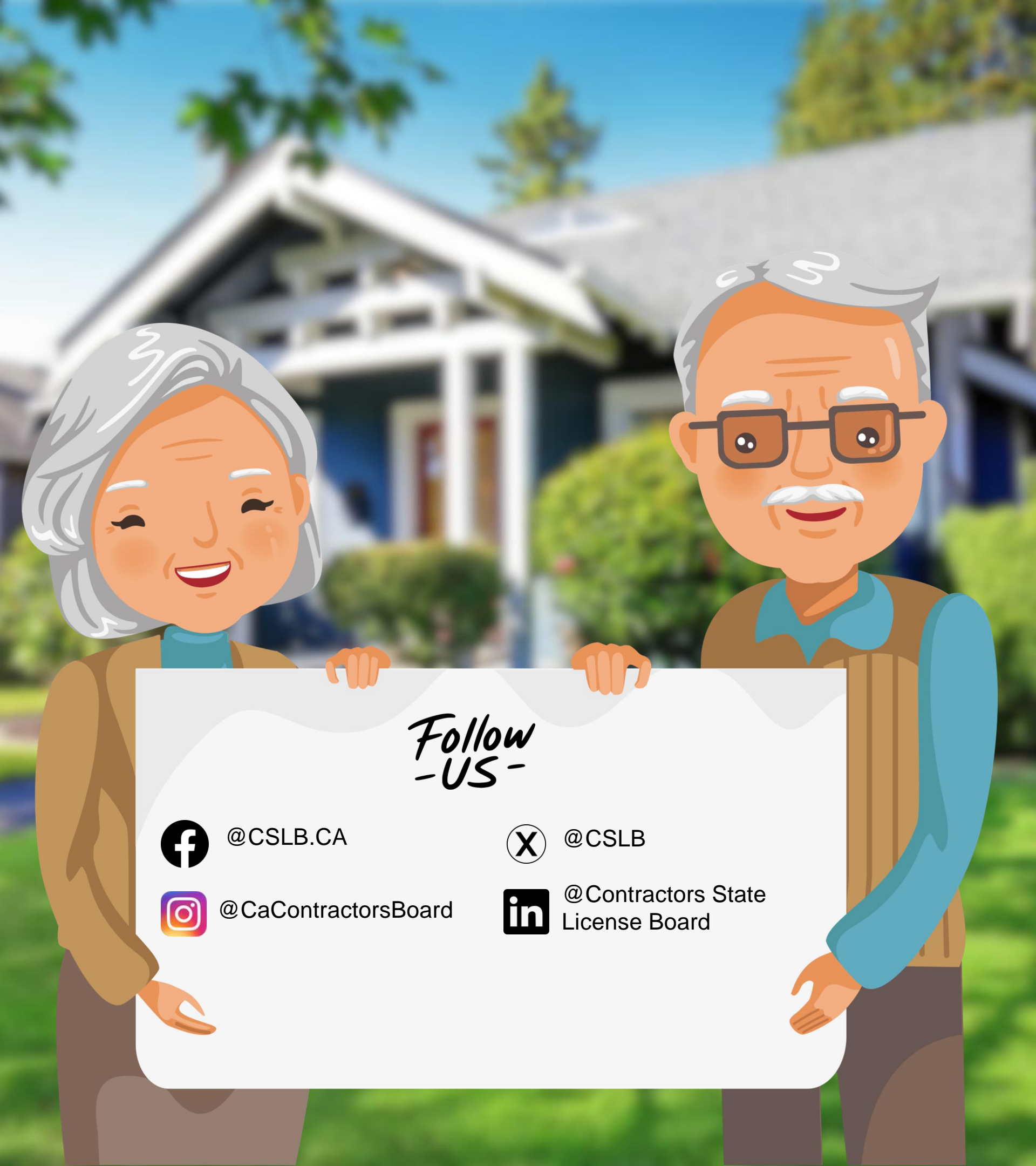
SCAN ME



- Read all sections under Hire a Contractor on this website.
- Read the CSLB publication What You Should Know Before You Hire a Contractor or call CSLB toll-free at (800) 321-CSLB (2752) to have one mailed to you.
- Take your time before you make a decision about hiring a contractor.
- Get at least three bids and check references.
- Hire only licensed contractors. Anyone performing home improvement work valued at \$500 or more must be licensed by the Contractors State License Board.
- Get the contractor's license number and verify license status on-line or by calling (800) 321-CSLB (2752).

What You Should Know About the Contract





*Follow  
-US-*



@CSLB.CA



@CSLB



@CaContractorsBoard



@Contractors State  
License Board

**CONTACT US**

# Contractors State License Board

Call Center:

**(800) 321-CSLB (2752)**

General Email:

**[cslbinfo@cslb.ca.gov](mailto:cslbinfo@cslb.ca.gov)**

Outreach Coordinator Email:

**[kyra.hall@cslb.ca.gov](mailto:kyra.hall@cslb.ca.gov)**

Website:

**[www.cslb.ca.gov/seniors](http://www.cslb.ca.gov/seniors)**



**THANK YOU FOR COMING!**

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