



Ontario Provincial Police
Police provinciale de l'Ontario

News Release/ Communiqué

FROM/DE: Northumberland OPP

DATE: May 9, 2017

HOME IMPROVEMENT WARNINGS

(NORTHUMBERLAND, ON) –As weather improves and home renovations are planned, the Northumberland Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) would like to remind the public when contemplating potential contractors – do your homework and protect yourself from poor workmanship or fraud.

Some suggestions on how to protect yourself:

- Ask for at least three references. Call those references and ask detailed questions about workmanship, how payments are made and were they on time
- Never pay fully for work not started or completed.
- Get a detailed contract stating work to be completed and finish dates.
- Check with the Better Business Bureau in your area for complaints.
- Be wary of paving contractors showing up at your door stating that they have 'left over' materials from a nearby job at a reduced rate, don't be pressured into anything without doing your research first.
- For more information on how to protect yourself go to the Consumer Protection Ontario website: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/your-rights-when-starting-home-renovations-or-repairs>

Knowledge is power. All consumers – regardless of age – can take many basic steps to better protect themselves from becoming victims of fraud. Remember, you should always report fraud-related crimes to not only warn others in similar circumstances but to avoid becoming a repeat victim.

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**Contact: Constable Steve Bates
Media Relations/Community Mobilization Officer
Northumberland OPP**

**Phone: 705-653-3300
705-632-8834 (cell)
1-888-310-1122 (toll free)**

E-mail: Stephen.Bates@opp.ca

The Ontario Provincial Police is committed to public safety, delivering proactive and innovative policing in partnership with our communities.



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Northumberland County OPP values your contribution to building safe communities. If you have information about suspected unlawful activity, please visit Crime Stoppers at: www.stopcrimehere.ca or call 1-800-222-TIPS (8477)