

statement that your written approval is required for any changes to the original contract?

◆ Does the contract reflect the total cost?

◆ Does the contract discuss the agreement?

◆ Is the contract dated and does it contain your signature and the contractor's signature?

Before paying any bill ask the contractor to provide you with a sworn statement that all materials have been paid for and all subcontractors have been paid. Get a receipt from the contractor and keep your cancelled check. This is very important since it may protect you from liens that may be placed on the property if all suppliers and subcontractors are not paid.

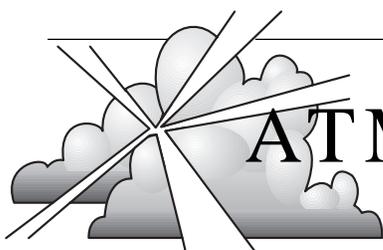
Do not sign over your insurance check to a contract until you are satisfied all the work has been completed in an acceptable manner.

Contractors who are not permanent residents of the area may be "transient merchants" and may require a transient merchant's license from the Attorney General's Office. Transient merchants must have the license in possession at all times when transacting business. They also are required to post a bond with the Attorney General's Office and you may be able to file a claim against the bond if you have a problem with the product or service. You may contact the Licensing Division of the Attorney General's Office at (701) 328-2329 or local law enforcement if you suspect a contractor should have a transient merchant's license and does not provide one.

If you are solicited by a contractor door-to-door, you will have some special rights. North Dakota law provides you have three days to cancel the purchase of consumer goods costing \$25 or more. People age 65 or older have 15 business days to cancel home solicitation sales costing more than \$50. The contractor or seller must tell you verbally and in writing about these rights to cancel or the deal is voidable,

Protect yourself from home improvement scams and other problems by researching your project and contractor.

"Doing your homework will help you when it comes time to choose the contractor for your flood repair project or any home improvements. It should reduce your problems and increase your satisfaction with the completed project," Grossman said. ■



THE ATMOSPHERIC RESERVOIR

Examining the Atmosphere and Atmospheric Resource Management

ARB Web site gets a facelift

by Darin Langerud

The arrival of spring after this long, hard winter is a welcome sight. As Mother Nature trades her snowstorms for thunderstorms, the Atmospheric Resource Board, in keeping with the spring theme, is changing the look of its Internet home page. The 'new' home page will contain updated and additional information within a newly organized structure, making the site easier to navigate and information easier to find.

Included within the site is information on the North Dakota Cloud

Modification Project (NDCMP), the ARB Cooperative Rain Gauge Network, and research undertaken by the ARB over the past few years.

New on the site will be weekly NDCMP updates and news articles, a precipitation data retrieval site where you can view or download any or all of our 20 years of precipitation data, a number of new pictures added to the photo gallery, and more.

So check out our home page at <http://water.swc.state.nd.us/ARB>. You can contact the ARB via e-mail through our Web site, or at the

address below, with any questions or comments you may have. We appreciate feedback from our visitors as it helps us better provide information to you.

Have fun, and happy surfing! ■

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