

# Hire a Licensed Plumber — It's the LAW

## When Hiring a Contractor

- **Ask for references:** Ask the contractor for names of customers in the area. Contact those people and ask their opinion of the contractor's work.
- **Check reputation:** Call the local Better Business Bureau. Have any complaints been filed against the contractor?
- **Check Licenses:** Not only must all plumbers in Illinois be licensed, but the contractor they are employed by must be registered by the Illinois Department of Public Health. Ask for anyone doing work on your home to show you their plumbing license. Be sure to check the picture and the expiration date on the license. To verify if a contractor is registered or a plumber is licensed you may contact the Illinois Department of Public Health at (217) 524-0791.
- **Insurance:** Make sure that your contractor carries the required liability and workers compensation coverages. Illinois Registered Contractors must have proof of these coverages on file with the IDPH.
- **Check into building permits:** Most localities require a building permit for home improvement projects. Contact your local licensing or permit department to see if you need one for your project. Make this call before the work begins.
- **Ask for an estimate:** To get an idea of the overall cost, ask for an estimate. Remember, however, that choosing a contractor should be based on more than just the lowest estimate. Quality of work counts too.
- **Training:** Ask you contractor about additional training they or their employees have taken or are taking. This is an industry that is constantly changing.

## Hire a Contractor You Can Trust ...It's About Your Health, Safety and Comfort

When you have work done in your home, you literally have to live with the results! And when that work deals with your home's plumbing, heating or cooling system, it takes on even more meaning since your family's health, safety and comfort are at stake.

So, when the time comes to call a plumbing, heating or cooling contractor, make sure you choose a trained, full-time professional-not just someone who does this type of work on the side.

Illinois law requires that anyone doing plumbing work for hire in Illinois must be licensed by the Illinois Department of Public Health. It further states, that all work must be done according to the Illinois Plumbing Code using only Code approved materials

## **What Can Happen if Plumbing is Improperly Installed**

Contamination of water supplies by cross connection between the water supply and drainage/sewer lines.

Illness, disease, and even death can be caused by waterborne pathogens. Improper installation of some plumbing fixtures can result in explosions and fires.

Poor plumbing reduces the resale value of your property and increases your liability.

***PROTECT THE HEALTH & SAFETY OF YOUR FAMILY:  
HIRE AN ILLINOIS LICENSED PLUMBER.***

