



## CRIME PREVENTION ASSOCIATION OF TORONTO

CrimePreventionTO.org  
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# Preventing Renovation Scams

When spring and summer comes, so do renovations, and scammers who try to trick you out of your money.

## How to recognize a renovation scam:

Someone knocks on your door or phones you and says:

- “We’re working in the neighbourhood.”
- “Something of yours (roof, eaves, chimney, brickwork) needs fixing right away.”
- We can do it CHEAP.”
- “You need to pay us for the work NOW, in CASH.”

If any of these things happen to you, they should set off an alarm in your head.

You may be about to be scammed.

## How to avoid being scammed:

1. Reliable renovators sometimes put a sign outside where they’re working. But good, reputable renovators don’t need to knock on doors or phone to get more work.
2. Before you fix something, make sure you need to have it fixed. Get a second opinion from another contractor. You don’t need to have work done by the first person that offers to do it. Getting another estimate gives you a cooling off period from pressure tactics so you can do homework to see if the first people who offered to help you are legitimate, or NOT.
3. If it’s too good to be true, it probably isn’t. Good work costs good money. Be suspicious of “deals”.
4. Renovators sometime need a deposit before they start work, to buy materials, for example. But you should never pay for EVERYTHING or A LOT OF MONEY in advance, before you’ve thoroughly investigated the workers, because otherwise, you may get no work done in return. They just walk away with your money.

If you ever ask yourself, “Does this seems suspicious?”, then it’s likely a scam.

**So don’t do it.**

