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# Fact Sheet

## **Contact Local Officials About Permits Before Starting Work**

Homeowners who are repairing or rebuilding Hurricane Irma-damaged property should contact local officials before starting work.

Construction that may require permits includes plumbing, electrical system, foundation and structural repairs. FEMA does not provide permits.

Some communities may also enforce other requirements like elevation for those who are repairing or rebuilding a home.

A local emergency manager can direct homeowners where to get more information about permits and learn about other requirements. They may find contact information for their local emergency manager online at [www.floridadisaster.org/counties](http://www.floridadisaster.org/counties).

## **Advice about Contractors**

Hiring a licensed contractor may help prevent future structural and financial problems. That's why it's important to ensure contractors who are rebuilding homes or making repairs are licensed in Florida.

Licensed contractors in Florida must carry general liability insurance and worker's compensation.

Always require a written contract. Be sure to read it carefully and understand what it says.

Never pay the full cost of the job upfront and ask for a receipt.

Get more than one estimate. Compare them and if one is much lower than the others and seems too good to be true it probably is.

Verify a contractor's license online at the Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation's website: [www.myfloridalicense.com/dbpr](http://www.myfloridalicense.com/dbpr).

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