



THE INVESTIGATOR



Don't let your Dream Home turn into a Nightmare

Since the beginning of the pandemic, home renovations are up nearly 40% across Canada. With a massive increase in people working from home, more owners are taking on projects they had put off in the past. Unfortunately for some, this has led to disaster, literally, and the loss of thousands of dollars. Home-improvement scams have placed third in 2020 on the Better Business Bureau's annual Scam Tracker Canadian Risk Report.

About Us

Since 2000, BCSI Investigations Inc. has performed thousands of successful investigations. Our integrated team of investigators and support services ensure that the investigations are conducted in a timely fashion with leading edge techniques.

BCSI Investigations Inc. is considered the platinum standard of the industry based on the quality and the wide spectrum of its services as well as the expertise of the investigators.

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The BBB says home-improvement scams often see fraudsters acting as contractors to offer low prices or a short time frame to do renovations. The fake contractors use high-pressure sales tactics and asks for money upfront to manipulate victims. Many victims fall into these situations when they try to save money by doing cash deals. Once the victim has paid the upfront fee, the fraudster will simply stop communicating with them or the work is started, done poorly, and not to code, leaving the house in shambles and the homeowners devastated. They may continue work on and off for months with lots of promises to rectify the issues until they eventually stop all together.

Tips to avoid home-improvement scams include:

- Research and gather information about the contractor
- Say no to cash deals and high-pressure sales tactics
- Ask for references
- Avoid cutting corners
- Have a written agreement
- Set a clear budget and have a payment schedule
- Knows your rights and the law
- Contact a third-party such as BCSI Investigations to perform a background and due diligence on the contractor prior to hiring

As with many scams, if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is. Remember that some fraudsters may be able to get around some of the tips listed above, so performing a background check is always a safe bet.

If you have been a victim of a home-renovation scam or want a background check on a contractor, reach out to BCSI at



<https://www.picanada.ca/contact-us/> or call our office at 604-922-6572 and have a free consultation with one of our experienced investigators.

Contact Us

With over 20 years of experience in investigations, BCSI Investigations Inc. is the platinum standard for private investigations. Contact us at 604-922-6572 or visit our website at www.picanada.ca to learn more.



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