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Unlicensed Reno Contractors “Floored”
By Undercover NSCB Investigator’s Stings

Alan L. Benn thought he had all the bases covered when he advertised his **Al’s Tile, No Job Too Small**, business on a local Reno bulletin board. He bragged of having 25 years experience and being “state certified.” Unknowingly, he proudly drove an undercover NSCB investigator to a residence to showoff a flooring job he did. The work looked pretty good.

Unfortunately, Benn isn’t a licensed Nevada contractor. He was cited for *contracting without a license*, after submitting a \$5,800 bid. When asked why he never obtained a contractor’s license, he simply stated, “I never had any reason to get a license.”

The NSCB just gave him one.

Ommar E. Espinoza-Ruiz was advertising his services on Craig’s List – wood floors, vinyl laminate, etc. He said he worked throughout Reno, Carson City and Lake Tahoe. His advertisement caught the attention of a licensed contractor, who passed on the information to a NSCB investigator.

When contacted by an NSCB investigator, Esponoza-Ruiz submitted a bid for \$2,700 and was issued a criminal citation for *contracting without a license*.

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A repentant **Jaime Badillo**, who submitted a \$4,500 concrete patio bid to an undercover NSCB investigator, told the investigator, “If you don’t cite me, I won’t do this anymore.” He had been advertising his services on a local bulletin board under “Home Renovations.”

The NSCB does not make deals. Badillo was given a criminal citation for *advertising without a license*.

All three unlicensed contractors were encouraged to become properly licensed contractors.

“These stings should serve as warnings that the NSCB is serious about cracking down on unlicensed contractors,” said Margi Grein, Executive Officer for the Board. “Consumers should not be taken in by promises of cheap work performed by unlicensed contractors. In reality it may cost more, and the consumer is left with little or no protection.

“It is important for consumers to check the license status of any company they wish to hire at our website: **www.nscb.state.nv.us**,” she added.

Contracting without a license in Nevada is a misdemeanor for the first offense, a gross misdemeanor for the second offense and a Class E felony for the third offense. Homeowners who use unlicensed contractors are not eligible for the Residential Recovery Fund, and by law their contracts are null and void.

Consumers can check whether a contractor is licensed by calling: (702) 486-1100 in Southern Nevada, or (775) 688-1141 in Northern Nevada. License checks can also be conducted on the NSCB website at: **www.nscb.state.nv.us**

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