BBG iWonder

How can I avoid dodgy builders?

Know a rogue when you see one

When it comes to spotting a rogue trader there are certain things that should set your alarm bells tinga-linging right from the start.

Firstly, if a seemingly nice man turns up on your doorstep offering to do some work don't trust him.

A good builder would be too busy to do this. Often the cold caller will be saying something like:

"I just noticed you've got a little problem with your drive."

He'll be pretty vague on details. People like him often don't give an address or a fixed line telephone number and they don't give you quotes in writing...they make up figures that sound really cheap...but don't be surprised if the price goes up later.

A builder who tells porkies about their credentials should be avoided like asbestos sandwiches.

Contact any trade bodies they claim to be approved by.

Another thing to look out for is a builder who wants to start right away. Sounds lovely doesn't it....no waiting around wondering if they'll appear.

But the trouble is the real scammers will take money upfront, start lots of jobs in a neighbourhood, and disappear before any of it's finished, leaving behind communities full of botched jobs and broken hearts

bbc.co.uk/iwonder © Copyright 2014