

Gypsy Scams

Every year many people are scammed out of thousands of dollars due to “Gypsy” scams. Scammers typically target the elderly but everyone is a potential victim. Minor construction projects including siding, roofing and paving jobs are frequently the type of work gypsies perform.

Gypsies use questionable building practices, and the material may not to the quality that should be used.

A frequent tactic employed is claiming to have excess material. For example, they will approach a resident whose driveway is in need of repair, and claim they are working down the street and have excess asphalt. For cash, they will repair your driveway. They will either take the money and run, or lay the asphalt in a shoddy way. Either way, the money given will not be worth the quality of work performed.

Often, after scammers have secured a job, they will claim more material was required to finish the job than quoted, and bully the customer into giving them more money. This recently happened to an elderly couple. The original paving job quote was for \$4,000, but when they were finished the elderly victims were bullied out of \$10,000.

Always get a written estimate for the complete job. This is required under State Law. Use reputable contractors. Ask for and check references. Check with the Better Business Bureau to see if any complaints have been issued. Don't be pressured into making a quick decision. No reputable contractor will use this tactic.

If you feel you are being scammed or bullied into doing something you don't feel is right, or if you have any questions, call the Police immediately.