



T E X A S  
ASSOCIATION  
OF  
BUILDERS

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**TEXANS SHOULD BEWARE OF DISHONEST CONTRACTORS  
IN THE WAKE OF HURRICANE IKE**

*TAB offers warning signs as homeowners rebuild*

AUSTIN – As Texans along the Gulf Coast begin rebuilding their lives and homes in the wake of Hurricane Ike, the Texas Association of Builders (TAB) and its affiliates offer suggestions to protect homeowners from unscrupulous contractors and builders.

“Thousands of Texans are just beginning the long, emotionally difficult task of trying to salvage their property and make their homes livable again,” said Scott Norman, interim executive director of TAB. “TAB and local home builder associations along the coast do not want these storm victims to be taken advantage of during the rebuilding process.”

When selecting a contractor, homeowners should be suspicious if they are:

- Assured a contract “won’t be necessary”
- Told they must pay for the entire job “up front” – or to pay cash to a salesperson instead of a check or money order to a company
- Confronted with scare tactics
- Told they’ve been “chosen” as a demonstration project at a special, low price
- Told a low price is good only if a contract is immediately signed
- Refused references from a contractor – or told the references can’t be located
- Unable to verify the contractor’s business address

Homeowners should verify that a builder or remodeler is registered, as required by state law, with the Texas Residential Construction Commission (TRCC). Registered builders and remodelers should have a TRCC-issued registration certificate and/or wallet card to verify proof of registration. To be registered, builders and remodelers must undergo a background check and provide minimum warranties for their work.

Homeowners can check registration status of builders and remodelers through the TRCC’s online searchable database at [www.texasrcc.org](http://www.texasrcc.org) or by calling 1-877-651-TRCC. The database also contains other information, such as the number of homes a builder or remodeler has registered with the TRCC and whether that builder or remodeler has a confirmed construction defect.

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**NOTE: The following individuals are available for radio, TV or newspaper interviews:**

- Texas Association of Builders – Scott Norman, interim executive director, (512) 476-6346, [scott@texasbuilders.org](mailto:scott@texasbuilders.org)
- Greater Houston Builders Association – Toy Wood, executive officer, (281) 773-6032, or Brian Binash, president, (281) 872-0451
- Galveston County Builders Association – Carolyn Cambiano, executive officer, (409) 925-5269
- Home Builders Association of Southeast Texas – Gale Simmons, executive officer, (409) 351-9094, or Bill Little, TAB director, (409) 338-9108

*Founded in 1946, the Texas Association of Builders ([www.texasbuilders.org](http://www.texasbuilders.org)) has more than 13,000 members. TAB is an affiliate of the National Association of Home Builders and has 33 local home builders associations across Texas.*