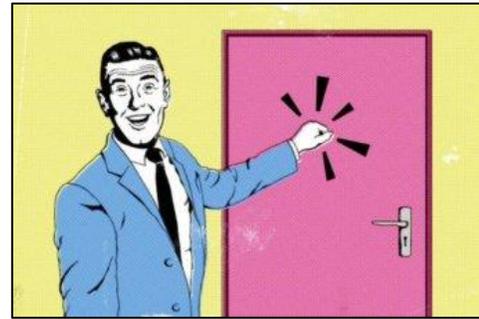


How to Avoid Door-To-Door Scams



Door-to-Door Do's & Don'ts

- NEVER share personal information, especially credit card or banking information
- Never let anyone you don't know into your home unless they have a previously scheduled appointment that YOU set up with the service provider; check for identification
- Read paperwork carefully. Remember that you don't have to sign anything on the spot; you can hold onto any paperwork a service person drops off at your home and call the phone number found on your bill to ask any questions you might have with the company directly
- If you sign something and have second thoughts, there is a "cooling-off" period which gives you three days to cancel a contract (see attached for specifics and exceptions)

You have every right to **NOT OPEN YOUR DOOR** to strangers. And if you do, don't be afraid to ask lots of questions. Don't take their claims at face value, and be prepared to research. If solicitors are reluctant to provide answers, SHUT THE DOOR.

Some common spring time scams include:

Home Repair/Utility Scams

Watch out: This sneaky con artist tries to convince families they need home services, like roofing or tree removal. They then claim that they just finished a home improvement contract nearby and have leftover supplies (allowing them to offer a cut-rate price). Another con involves "utility workers" and who show up at your door and say your services will be cut off if you don't make an immediate payment.

What to do: Never enlist the services of a provider who shows up on your doorstep unannounced. Don't share personal information with a salesperson knocking on your door. If you haven't made an appointment with a service provider or utility worker, don't let them in! It's perfectly okay to ask for identification without welcoming a stranger inside. Call and verify their information, and let the person wait outside. Legitimate salespeople will still be there, scammers will have moved on to the next place.

Follow up with law enforcement by reporting the suspicious person to the non-emergency phone number 262-886-2300. You may just prevent someone else from being scammed.

Fake Magazine Sales

Watch out: In most cases, these often-younger door-to-door salespeople are working for larger groups that are out to get you to shell out for multiple subscriptions that likely will never arrive.

What to do: Ask to see paperwork clearly stating the terms and conditions of the sale, as well as a copy of the seller's license. The seller should have a contact card or pamphlet that you can retain, so you can do some research (such as price checking with the magazine publisher's website) and then reach out if you decide to purchase a subscription.

Alarm System Scams

Watch out: Con artists who see security system signs may knock on your door claiming to work for the security company and explain that they're updating systems in your neighborhood. These scammers may try to "upgrade" your system when they're actually disconnecting it and installing a new one from a different company. If you sign paperwork for the "upgrade," you could unknowingly be committing to an extended contract with hefty cancellation fees.

What you can do: Turn away the security system worker, and say that you are not interested. If, however, you find yourself getting sucked into a conversation, be sure to carefully read paperwork before signing up for an equipment upgrade. Ask for the salesperson's name and explain that you are going to call your security company and verify the visit and equipment.