

## Information of Interest for Home Improvement Contractors Concerning:

### The PA Home Improvement Contractor Registration Act (Act 132 of 2008)

All home improvement contractors must register with the State Attorney General's Office, Bureau of Consumer Protection by July 1, 2009. They must register every two years. They are exempt from registering if they have gross revenues of less than \$5000 from home improvement contracting during the most recent taxable year. The registration fee is \$50.

A contract must be signed between the contractor and homeowners for all home improvements valued at \$500 or more. Most emergency repairs are excluded.

Each contract must contain a significant number of specific clauses and protections for the consumer. Those requirements are spelled out in the Act. The Pennsylvania Builders Association is developing model contracts for its members that will comply with all of the statutory requirements.

Failure to comply with this Act may subject home improvement contractors to civil and criminal penalties, including, but not limited to, Home Improvement Contractor Fraud. Each county District Attorney will have the authority to take action against home improvement contractors not complying with the Act.

Home improvement contractors will have to advertise their state registration number in all public advertising.

### So, who is a home improvement contractor?

Anyone who performs work or services for a homeowner, for compensation, that involves *additions, alterations, renovations, remodeling, installations, conversion and modernization, repairs - both interior and exterior*. Besides remodeling contractors or those who call themselves home improvement contractors, the following are some *examples* of others who will meet the definition of a home improvement contractor:

Electricians	Flooring installer (carpet, hardwood, tile, etc.)
Plumbers	Builders/installers of sheds, garages, patios
Masonry and cement contractors	greenhouses, carports, gazebos, cabanas
HVAC contractors	pool houses and other accessory structures
Lighting contractors	Landscape contractors (some excluded activities)
Siding contractors	Driveway repair, replacement, sealing contractor
Window, door, awning contractors	Pool builders and installers
Deck builders	Waterproofing contractors
Roofing and porch contractors	Security system installers
Painters	Insulation contractors
Wall paper hanger	Solar system, alternate energy installers
Cabinetry/countertop installers	

