As summer approaches, many of us begin working on projects around the house: fence and roof repair, driveway and sidewalk repair, and, of course, yard work.

Remember, though, just as summer brings warmer weather it also brings “travelers.” These thieves show up at your door with “leftover” products or materials from a “previous” job and offer to do work for you at an unbelievably low price. No matter how tempted you are to take them up on their offer, remember one thing: if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.

WHAT TO LOOK FOR:
Travelers use high-pressure sales tactics but are usually very friendly. They try to gain your trust through their offer to help with your “needed” repair at a very low cost to you. Sometimes travelers will insist they’ve done work for you before—again trying to gain your trust.

If you waiver in your decision as to whether or not to work with them, they may use scare tactics such as telling you: if you don’t get the work done that day, you’ll pay much higher prices to some other company; or you may be putting your life at risk by not having the repair done immediately.

Travelers often ask for payment in advance. Beware of this tactic, because many times they will take the payment and do little or no work at all. Your money and the scammers will be gone.

HOW TO NOT BECOME A VICTIM:
Beware of any door-to-door contractor.

Don’t pay in advance.

Get at least three written bids/second opinions on home projects; don’t always accept the lowest bid.

Check all contractors with your building inspection department and the Mountain States Better Business Bureau.

Insist on written contracts; don’t be pressured into paying more than the contract states.

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