

Scams at a Glance:
Sink or Swim

Pool Contractor Scams

Be mindful of these pool contractor scams while looking to purchase a pool this summer.

Deep Discount Scam

Offers that are too-good-to-be-true could be a red flag. Be wary of estimates that are thousands of dollars cheaper than competitors. Ask for an explanation if there is a big difference in costs from other reputable companies.

Bait and Switch Scam

After signing a contract, the contractor demands more money to complete the job.

Licensing and Insurance Scams

A contractor pretends to be licensed and insured—sometimes providing someone else's license number.

Deposit Scam

A contractor requires a large deposit upfront to secure the project, but then fails to start or complete the work.

For more information, visit
MyFloridaLegal.com/ScamsAtAGlance

Florida Attorney General's Office
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Fraudulent pool contractors should be reported to local law enforcement.

To file a complaint against a pool contractor, contact DBPR at MyFloridaLicense.com or by calling (850) 487-1395

To file a civil complaint, visit MyFloridaLegal.com or call 1-866-9-NO-SCAM (1-866-966-7226)

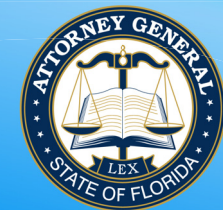
View other Scams at a Glance resources at:
MyFloridaLegal.com/ScamsAtAGlance

By remaining vigilant and informed, savvy consumers can help us build a Stronger, Safer Florida.



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Be Vigilant When Purchasing a Pool

With an average summer temperature in the mid-80 degrees, it is no surprise that many Florida families in the Sunshine State seek the cool waters of an inground pool in their backyard.

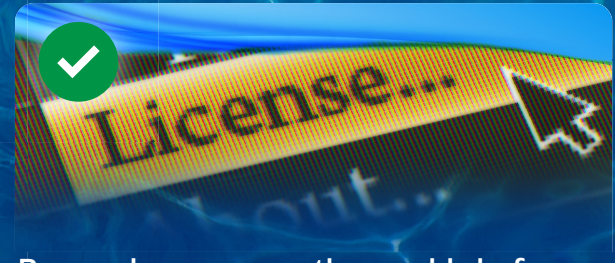
However, homeowners should be cautious! Some pool contractors engage in practices that could leave the customer drowning in debt, without a completed pool.



How to Avoid Pool Schemes



Verify the contractor's license with the Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation. Do not trust contractors who cannot provide proof of licensing.



Research a company thoroughly before providing a deposit. Ask trusted friends or family members for recommendations.



Be wary of contractors who demand a large deposit upfront. Instead, opt for a payment schedule that is tied to the completion of specific project milestones.



Make sure to understand a contract in its entirety before signing. Never sign a contract with blank spaces and make sure it includes a written statement of your right to cancel.



Get at least three estimates before signing with a contractor.



Ask to see a contractor's proof of insurance and verify with the insurance provider that the policy is current and valid.