

# Homeowners Beware!

*Planning a renovation or addition project?*

*Read this!*

If a contractor is showing you a “license” that starts with the number 13VH, he is misrepresenting himself and is in clear violation of the law which regulates Home Improvement Contractor’s in New Jersey and protects you! It is not a professional license, it is simply a registration.

Handymen and contractors who perform home improvements are now required to carry a Home Improvement Contractors Registration. Many are misleading the unsuspecting public into thinking that this registration demonstrates special training, even competency...it does not. **THIS IS NOT A LICENSE AND DOES NOT REQUIRE THE INDIVIDUAL TO BE EXPERIENCED OR EVEN COMPETANT!**

Only a **Master Plumber** is allowed by law to perform or even advertise plumbing work in the State of New Jersey. In fact, **Master Plumbers** are **EXEMPT** from virtually all of the Home Improvement Contractors Registration requirements because they possess the unique qualifications needed to be eligible for the stringent State Board of Examiners licensing examinations. These qualifications include a mandatory 4 year trade school apprenticeship education and 5 years actual hands-on field experience working under supervision of a **Master Plumber**. They must also maintain State mandated continuing education requirements and retain a public surety bond for your protection.

Plumbing work by unlicensed entities has become rampant. Since the adoption of the “Home Improvement Contractors Registration Act” certain unlicensed individuals have conned their way into homes. Promising "cheap" prices and coercing unsuspecting homeowners into obtaining the necessary permit application to give “cover” to their unlicensed practice leaving the homeowner open to liability and lacking the many consumer protections provided under law by a **Master Plumbers** seal.

With the advent of the new “**Home Improvement Contractors Registration Act**” there has been a marked rise in the amount of "exempt applicant" permit applications as unlicensed contractors have homeowners falsify permit applications in order for them to perform the work themselves illegally. This deception puts the homeowner at risk. Additionally, it burdens the licensed Master Plumber who “plays by the rules” and struggles legally to operate a business and feed a family in the regulation rich climate of this State.

So homeowners, remember if anyone other than a licensed **Master Plumber** performs any plumbing in your house, they are in violation of **N.J.A.C 45:14C-12.3 (a)**. If caught, first offence; 6 months in Jail and a \$2000.00 fine. The homeowner is also subject to fines under N.J.A.C 5:23 for falsely statements!

***This important message has been brought to you by the  
Monmouth County Master Plumbers Association.***

***Check us out at [njslmp.net/monmouth](http://njslmp.net/monmouth)***