

# Home Improvement Contractor

All home improvement and trade contractors in Virginia are required to be licensed, even for minor jobs.

1. **Check to see if the contractor is licensed** by the Commonwealth of Virginia at 804-367-8511, or online at [www.dpor.virginia.gov](http://www.dpor.virginia.gov).
2. **Get several estimates.** Compare proposals and prices. Remember that, in terms of quality of workmanship, the lowest price may not be the best deal.
3. **Check references** from the contractors you are considering. Check with previous customers to find out:
  - ✓ The work was completed on time?
  - ✓ Did the contractor perform satisfactory work?
  - ✓ Was the contractor responsive to any problems and complaints?
4. **Choose a contractor. Insist on a written, detailed contract.** A written contract is required by law, and details; such as brand names, completion dates, etc.; may help if problems arise.

For complaint records and general information about a contractor, contact the **Dept. of Professional and Occupational Regulations (DPOR)** by calling 804-367-8500 or online at [www.dpor.virginia.gov](http://www.dpor.virginia.gov).

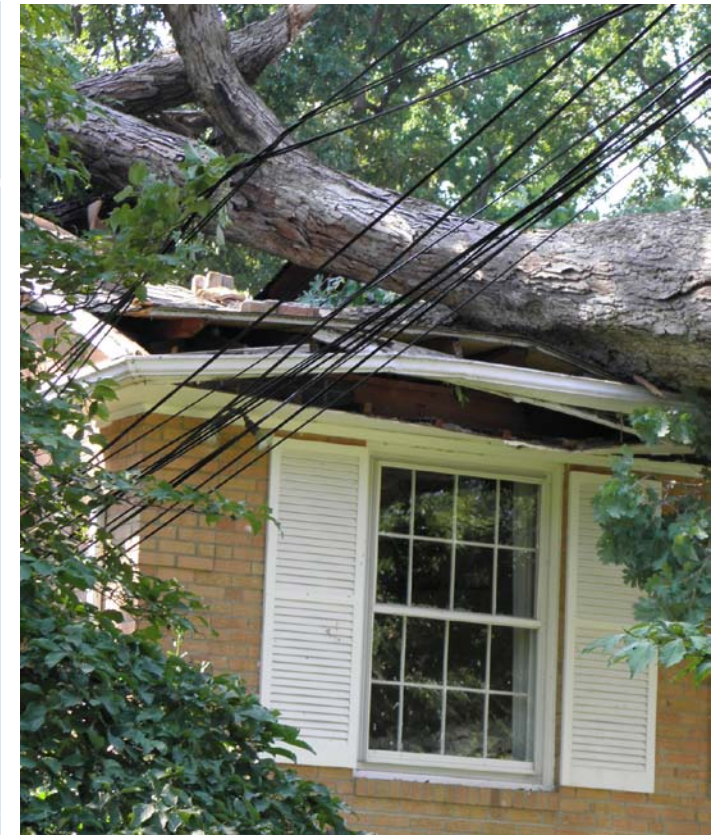
## Contact Us

Inspection Services Division  
2100 Clarendon Blvd., 10<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Arlington, VA 22201

**703-228-3800**

<http://building.arlingtonva.us>

Arlington County Government provides accommodations for qualified individuals with disabilities as described in the Americans with Disabilities Act. To arrange for an accommodation, please call 703-228-3232 or email at [codeenforcement@arlingtonva.us](mailto:codeenforcement@arlingtonva.us).



## Homeowner's Guide to Home Repairs After a Storm



ARLINGTON  
VIRGINIA

# Inspection Services

If you believe that your property **sustained major damage** as a result of a major storm event or natural disaster, and you may require a permit for the repairs, you can **request an inspection**, and thereafter obtain a copy of the Damage Report by calling 703-228-3800.

Depending on the extent of the damage to a home, the **County's Inspection Services Division** may require a property owner to obtain the services of a structural engineer to determine whether or not the home is livable, or it has been seriously compromised.

Structural damage may be hidden in a building component (e.g., a roof, wall or floor).

**County inspectors are trained** to assess the dynamics of structural damage to determine whether an engineering evaluation is needed.

Information about obtaining permits for the repairs can be found on Arlington County's **Department of Community Planning, Housing and Development Inspection Services Division** website:

<http://building.arlingtonva.us/>



## Assessing Damage

### Building

**Minor Repairs** to damaged siding, shingles, windows, carpeting, wallboard, paint, trim and other minor exterior/interior building features do not require building permits.

**Major Repairs** include damages to structural elements of a building, such as roofs, walls, floors, and beams. Repairs of this kind typically involve such things as replacing roof rafters/trusses, replacing floor joists, replacing wall sections, or reconstructing substantial portions of a building.

- ✓ Building permits are required for major repairs.
- ✓ A licensed professional contractor should perform the damage assessment and repair.

### Electrical Systems

**Minor Repairs** to damaged lighting fixtures, home appliances and electrical cords. Electrical permits are generally not required for minor repairs.

- ✓ A licensed Virginia State Electrical Contractors should do the damage assessment and repair.

**Major Repairs** include damage to general lighting and convenience circuits, service entrance panels, sub-panels, circuit boxes, or any damage to electrical supply components from the meter into the house.

- ✓ Electrical permits are required for major repairs.
- ✓ An electrical service permit and inspection is required. before Dominion Power will reconnect your service.

### Plumbing & Gas Systems

**Minor Repairs** to the working parts of a valve or faucet.

The clearance of stoppages, repair of leaks or replacement of defective valves (with the exception of gas piping systems) or faucets.

Plumbing permits generally are not required for minor repairs.

**Major Repairs** encompasses any damage to water, sewer and gas pipes.

- ✓ Plumbing permits are required for major repairs.

### Mechanical Systems

**Minor Repairs** includes slight damage to mechanical appliances/equipment or air supply systems such as replacing fans or patching ductwork.

Mechanical permits are not required for minor repairs.

**Major Repairs** are considerable damages to heating, ventilating, and air conditioning systems in the home. Repairs of this kind typically involve such things as replacing heat pumps, air conditioning compressors, and air supply systems.

- ✓ Mechanical permits are required for major repairs.