

Buyer Beware!

UNPERMITTED CONSTRUCTION Hammers Unsuspecting Home Buyers



Unscrupulous “flippers” purchase properties cheap, make repairs or changes without the required permits and inspections, then sell them to unsuspecting buyers who later experience problems.

Protect yourself before you buy:

- ◆ Hire a certified independent inspector to inspect the home and identify any shoddy construction.
- ◆ Visit the DPIE website to check for any permits that have been pulled for work on the property.
- ◆ Walk away from any house with unpermitted construction or make the seller fix the problems and secure the appropriate permits and inspections before you sign on the dotted line.
- ◆ Notify DPIE so the seller can be held accountable. The County Council legislation helps authorities take action against flippers.

Access the following resources on the DPIE website:

- 1) Find out when a permit is required:

<https://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/1501/Residential-Building>

- 2) Check permits by address:

<https://dpiestatus.princegeorgescountymd.gov/site/public/Citizens/ActivitySearch.aspx>.

When entering the street name, use the first term. For example, search Chancellors Drive using “Chancellors.”

- 3) Read the Homeowner’s Guide to Permits:

<https://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/documentcenter/view/4897>

- 4) Request copies of permits through the Maryland Public Information Act (MPIA):

<https://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/2763/Methods-for-Submitting-MPIA-Request>

For more information, call the Permits Office at 301-636-2050 ext. 5 or visit [Permits online](#).

Be proactive! Take action BEFORE you buy!



Angela D. Alsobrooks
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