Informational Alert – September 2008
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Is that company for real?

You have a car that needs to be repaired, or maybe an appliance that needs fixing. How do you know who to call?

Most people will resort to their local telephone book to make a choice of someone to make their repairs. If they've got the biggest advertisement with the most color in the phone book, then they must be doing quite the business to pay for an ad like that, right? What's even more impressive, the advertisement says that they're endorsed by the Better Business Bureau and AARP and give senior and/or military discounts. So they must be a company that you should want to do business with and be legitimate, right? Not necessarily.

It seems that con-artists are now using the phone book to place their advertisements in and hope to lure you in and separate you from your money and still leave you with repairs that need to be done.

How do you check out a business?

First would be to check the company out with the Better Business Bureau by either calling (866)206-1800 or by visiting their website at www.bbb.org. They'll be able to tell you whether or not they have a satisfactory business record with the BBB, whether they are an accredited member of the BBB and what kind of complaints they may have on the company.

Next place to check out the company is with the Secretary of State by calling either (303)894-2200 or by visiting their website at www.sos.state.co.us.

If the business you are considering is a home improvement project, you will probably need to hire a contractor. To verify that they are licensed with the Pueblo Regional Building Department located at 316 W. 15th Street. This can be done by calling (719)543-0002 or by visiting their website at www.prbd.com.

If the answers you receive from these agencies is unsatisfactory, then you will want to reconsider whether you wish to choose to do business with the company.