

The Building Department and Fire Prevention Office want to take this opportunity to warn homeowners to be cautious when contacted or approached by unsolicited home repair contractors. A high percentage of these companies or individuals are chimney cleaning services who often are not licensed contractors. We have unfortunately learned of several instances where unsuspecting homeowners have been approached by individuals ringing their door bells and offering to "clean" the home's chimneys. Many times the individual then inform the owners of "a dangerous condition" that exists and requires immediate and oftentimes expensive repairs such as the installation of a chimney liner. These repairs may or may not be necessary and these contractors have actually caused more damage than improvements. In some cases the homeowners had to employ another licensed contractor to remove the liner or appurtenance that was installed incorrectly.

If you are approached by one of these individuals remember the following facts:

The State of New Jersey as of January 1<sup>st</sup> 2006 has LICENSED ALL HOME IMPROVEMENT CONTRACTORS PERFORMING WORK VALUED AT \$500.00 OR MORE.

The installation of Chimney Liners **requires a permit and inspection** from the Building Department.

Don't panic when informed of this "dangerous condition". Install a carbon monoxide detector if you don't have already. Call a local licensed contractor for a second opinion before contracting to have the work performed and check with the Building Department to see if permits are required for the repair.