Handyman vs. Contractor

What a handyman can and cannot do without a Florida state license

Florida law requires certain construction work to be done by a licensed contractor. A handyman who is not a licensed contractor may only do miscellaneous, non-structural repair work.

To receive a "home office" occupational license as a handyman, applicants must understand what they can do and, more importantly, what they **cannot** do.

Can do without a state license	Cannot do without a state license*
✓ Awning installation	✗ Adding or changing existing windows
✓ Carpentry (minor)	✗ Adding, removing or cutting away walls, portions of walls or partitions
✓ Door repair	✗ Chemical treatment of pools
✓ Drywall	✗ Electrical repair
✓ Masonry (non-structural)	✗ Adding to, altering, replacing or relocating any plumbing piping, electrical wiring or mechanical equipment
✓ Painting	✗ Pool installations
✓ Paneling	✗ Roofing repairs
✓ Paving (excluding driveway apron)	✗ Well drilling
✓ Small appliance repair	✗ Mechanical heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) repairs
✓ Stone (non-structural)	✗ Removing any structural beam or load-bearing support
✓ Texture coating	✗ Removing or changing any required means of egress (exit), or rearranging parts of a structure
✓ Tile installation	
✓ Trim work	
✓ Window repair	

**This list is not all-inclusive. It is the responsibility of the individual to know what types of repairs or construction may not be performed without a state license.*

A state license is required for all contracting

Attempting to sell or advertise contracting services, or negotiating or bidding on a contract for those services, counts as contracting and is prohibited without a state license.

Not sure if a job needs a license? Check with the Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation (DBPR) at MyFloridaLicense.com.

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