

INDUSTRY ALERT

Beware email scams targeting tinters

WFANZ has received report of an email scam specifically targeting Aussie flat glass window film installers. This is the second time in one year a long-standing WFAANZ member has been approached by the same scammers with the same story - proving these con artists are as forgetful as they are immoral.

An email is sent, purportedly from a hearing impaired man who wants film installed in his home while in hospital. Due to his impairment he asks for all liaisons to be over email, and all payments will be via credit card, the details of which he'll provide on email.

He gives details about his requirements, window dimensions, etc. offers to pay the deposit with his credit card and set an installation date. Supposedly, access to the property will be granted by removalists, who will be there at the same time delivering his belongings.

The plot thickens when the 'client' then emails the tinter asking if they can pay the (fake) removalists for him. He promises this cost will be added to the bill for the film, so the tinter wouldn't be out any money.

While our member wasn't duped by this scam and didn't pursue the job, we surmise the credit card was fraudulent, and that any payment made to the removalist would be lost. The tinter would then be out the money for the removalist, his time, and if any film was actually cut, the cost of product too.

Please have a read of the email transcript (right) so you're familiar with the language and style of the scam.



EMAIL TRANSCRIPT

Subject: Re: Window tints

I want the following glasses tinted in sun control window films: 2 sliding patio doors measuring 80 inches high and 72 inches wide & 3 windows measuring 54 inches high and 30 inches wide.

I am hearing impaired and I am at the hospital right now will undergo a surgery so this is the best way to communicate.

I am getting my belongings moved from my old apartment to my new home, North Parramatta, NSW 2151 so I would want you meet with the removalist time, they will be delivering some of my properties to my new home so you can have access to do the installation.

I will finalize arrangement with the movers soon and would update you with date they will be at my new home for delivery so you can meet with them to get access then get work done after their delivery. So let me know now your cost for installation and required deposit for the work so I can give you my credit card details to charge for amount. Hope for the best of your service as I await your prompt response.

What to do if it happens to you

Please alert WFAANZ immediately if you receive a suspicious email or phone call of this nature. In the unfortunate event you are scammed by this or any other con relating to your business in the window film industry, your first point of call should be to the police. Secondly, it would be appreciated if you could inform WFAANZ so we can warn other tinters to help ensure it doesn't happen to anyone else.

Robert

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