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Licence checks – a must for the public

The CEO of the Master Plumbers and Gasfitters Association of WA (MPGA WA) Murray Thomas is advising all members of the public to ask to see a plumber's licence before letting them into their house.

Mr Thomas' warning comes after an elderly man became the victim of an aggravated burglary in Maylands this week. The victim was in his home when a man came to his front door claiming he had to check for leaking pipes in his backyard. While the man pretended to check the ground, a second man, armed with a crowbar broke into the house. When he was discovered, he pushed the elderly gent over and fled the house with family documents.

"If you have any doubts when someone knocks on your door and says they're a plumber, the simplest way to make sure is to ask to see their Plumbing Contractor's Licence from the Plumbers Licencing Board," said Mr Thomas.

"There are more than 5,600 licenced plumbers in Western Australia and all of them carry their licence, which has their photo on it, with them. It's always better to be safe than sorry.

"What this cowardly attack also highlights is how important it is for the plumbing industry to be regulated and licenced. The only way that someone can insure that the person coming to the door is a plumber is by their licence," added Mr Thomas.

"People asking to see a plumber's licence isn't just a matter of safety either. If you've booked a plumber to do some work, make sure you ask to see their licence. If a plumber has a licence then it is a guarantee that they are suitably qualified and experienced and their standard of work will meet the agreed standards for plumbing work.

"It pays to get a licenced plumber to do the job properly the first time around, rather than having to call one in to fix up shoddy workmanship by an unlicenced plumber."

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