



The Contractors State License Board, which operates under the umbrella of the California Department of Consumer Affairs, licenses and regulates California's 285,000 contractors, and is regarded as one of the leading consumer protection agencies in the United States.

Los Angeles County Wildfires: Ready to Find a Debris Removal Contractor?

Property owners affected by the Los Angeles County Wildfires participate in a two-phase process to clear the property before rebuilding can begin. More information about the two phases is on the [LA County Recovers](#) website.

After [Phase 1](#) (removal of hazardous household waste from the site), property owners who [opted out](#) of the government-run debris removal program may be ready to choose a contractor to remove debris from the property. The contractor must be licensed by the Contractors State License Board (CSLB) and the LA County [Opt-Out Form](#) requires a CSLB license number to be entered.

What Type of Contractor License(s) is Required for Debris Removal?

Los Angeles County debris removal permits are currently only issued to licensed contractors holding the CSLB [Hazardous Substance Removal Certification](#), and one of the following license classification(s):

- A [General Engineering](#) Contractor
- B [General Building](#) Contractor
- C-12 [Earthwork and Paving](#) and C-21 [Building Moving / Demolition](#)

CSLB asked licensed contractors who currently meet these criteria if they would be interested in having their information included on a list of eligible contractors. Here is [a list](#) of those interested. Please Note:

- The list is not all inclusive. There are more than 1,500 contractors that meet the debris removal contract requirements. Contractors can take multiple debris removal jobs at one time.
- CSLB cannot endorse or recommend, and is not responsible or liable for, services available from or not available from any contractor included in this list.
- A contractor's inclusion on this list does not mean they are the right contractor for you.

9821 Business Park Drive
Sacramento
California
95827

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P.O. Box 26000
Sacramento
California
95826-0026

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800.321.CSLB (2752)

www.cslb.ca.gov

CheckTheLicenseFirst.com

CSLB strongly recommends property owners take the following steps before hiring or engaging any contractor:

- **Check the CSLB website:** Go to cslb.ca.gov and use the "Find My Licensed Contractor" tool to search for the contractor by city, zip code, or specific classification, or by license number. If you have the contractor's license number, you can enter www.cslb.ca.gov forward-slash license number (for example, www.cslb.ca.gov/88888888).
- **Check license status:** Verify the contractor's license number is current and in good standing.
- **Review complaint disclosure:** The CSLB website also allows you to check for any disclosable consumer complaints or legal actions taken against the contractor.
- **Does the contractor have employees?** Confirm workers' compensation insurance compliance.
- **Get at least three bids:** Compare quotes from different contractors to ensure you're getting a fair price.
- **Request and check references:** Ask for references from previous clients and follow up with them to inquire about their experience with the contractor.
- **Ask about recent projects:** Have they done debris removal before? Visit the contractor's previous job sites if possible.

IMPORTANT: The contractor's employees performing the work must have current 40-hour HAZWOPER (Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response) training.

IMPORTANT: If the debris removal site is a personal residence, the contractor must provide you with a home improvement contract. This means:

- The down payment cannot exceed \$1,000.
- Any additional payments must specifically reference the amount of work or services to be performed and materials and equipment to be supplied and cannot exceed the value of work performed.
- Do not pay for services not provided or materials not delivered.

CSLB is committed to supporting those affected by the Los Angeles County Wildfires. Visit the CSLB [Disaster Help Center](#) for more information and resources or call the CSLB **Disaster Hotline**, (800) 962-1125, available Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.