

# 2020 Wildfire: Debris Removal and Rebuilding



Sign up by Oct. 16, 2020 for the State of Oregon and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to pay for the removal of household hazardous waste on your property affected by the wildfires

To protect public health and safety, state and federal agencies are helping county and local emergency management agencies to assess hazards and remove ash, debris and hazardous substances from wildfire areas before residents can rebuild.

Household hazardous waste may include solvents, fertilizers, disinfectants, aerosols, paint, bleach, fuel, petroleum, car batteries, antifreeze, propane tanks, fuel and petroleum.

## How to begin the process of cleaning up my wildfire damaged property

**Step 1:** Clearing properties of household hazardous waste to minimize exposure of hazardous materials to the public. Step 1 is being offered free of charge to property owners. Find the latest 2020 Wildfire cleanup information at wildfire [oregon.gov/cleanup](https://www.oregon.gov/cleanup)

**Step 2:** Ash and debris removal will begin after household hazardous waste removal (Step 1) is complete. State, county, and federal partners are actively working to develop options for ash and debris removal.

**IMPORTANT:** Sign a Right-of-entry form by **Oct. 16** to allow access to your property for the identification and removal of hazardous substances for safe disposal. You can find more information about clearing debris and the Right-of-entry form at [www.clackamas.us/wildfires/clear-debris](https://www.clackamas.us/wildfires/clear-debris).

## What is the hazardous waste removal approximate timeline for my property?

- Property owners sign Right-of-entry agreement and must submit by **Oct. 16**
- Boots-on-the-ground teams arrive on site Oct. 20-22
- Clean up complete by the end of this year Dec. 31, 2020

# Why is this process important?

## 1. Save Money

Removal of household hazardous waste and debris can be an incredibly expensive process, costing as much as \$75,000. Even with insurance, a majority of this cost may not be covered. The state is committed to paying for removal of household hazardous waste.

## 2. FEMA Reimbursement and Eligibility

FEMA has only approved certain materials for removal and reimbursement, and very specific documentation procedures must be followed. The state will be paying for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) cleanup teams to come out and do this work.

## 3. Threat to Your Health

Doing your own cleanup without proper protection puts your health at risk. Burned materials are hazardous and require more than gloves and a mask to protect your health. Buildings constructed before 2004 are likely to contain asbestos, which is carcinogenic.

## 4. Difficult to Dispose

Many landfills require specific documentation of the waste people drop off so they can handle it properly and comply with their regulation. This can include lab results to determine what hazardous materials are in your debris. If you do not have the proper documentation, you may not be allowed to dispose of your debris.

# How can I stay safe while I search through my destroyed property for any remaining valuables?

If you choose to return to your property, follow safety tips to protect yourself and your family at [www.oregon.gov/deq/wildfires/Pages/After-the-Fire.aspx](http://www.oregon.gov/deq/wildfires/Pages/After-the-Fire.aspx).

## Resources

- **2020 Oregon Wildfire Response and Recovery assistance**  
[wildfire.oregon.gov](http://wildfire.oregon.gov)
- **How to safely manage ash and debris from burned buildings**  
[ordeq.org/afterthefire](http://ordeq.org/afterthefire)
- **DEQ asbestos info**  
[ordeq.org/asbestos](http://ordeq.org/asbestos)
- **Wildfire insurance resources**  
[go.usa.gov/xGGq9](http://go.usa.gov/xGGq9)