

# Private Property Debris Removal

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Debris removal from private property is your responsibility as the property owner and is usually ineligible for reimbursement under FEMA's Public Assistance Program.

Under certain circumstances, FEMA may determine that debris removal from private property is eligible for program funding if debris is so widespread that it threatens public health and safety or the economic recovery of the community. In such cases, FEMA works with state and local governments to designate specific areas where debris removal from private property is eligible for funding. Debris removal must be in the public interest and must be a result of the declared incident.

Removing debris can be a challenging job. As homeowners, you may remove debris or hire help through insurance settlements. You may also get help removing storm debris from citizen volunteers, the private sector and voluntary organizations. Marion County, Arkansas, for example, offers a dedicated phone line for survivors needing assistance with storm cleanup.

Local governments often will dispose of disaster-related debris that private property owners place at the curb for pickup on a scheduled date. For example, Benton County has contracted with a private company to pick up vegetative debris and construction and demolition debris on storm-affected roads. For more information, Benton County residents can visit [Benton County Storm Relief Information \(bentoncountyar.gov\)](https://www.bentoncountyar.gov).

Tips for cleaning up debris on private property:

- **Stay safe.** Wear protective gear such as gloves and masks when handling debris. Contact your local emergency manager if your property is littered with storm-related debris that you suspect poses a threat to public health or safety. As you clear debris, look carefully for any visible cables. If you see any cables, wait for professionals to handle them.



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- **Avoid toxic substances.** If you suspect the debris contains dangerous ingredients, seal them in plastic bags to prevent them from becoming airborne. Don't burn debris you suspect may be toxic.
- **Check with local officials** before placing debris for collection.
- **Place debris away** from trees, poles or structures including fire hydrants and meters.
- **Don't block the roadway with debris.**

When in doubt, contact your local emergency manager for guidance.

For the latest information, visit [fema.gov/disaster/4788](https://fema.gov/disaster/4788). Follow the FEMA Region 6 X account at [X.com/FEMARegion6](https://x.com/FEMARegion6) or on Facebook at [facebook.com/FEMARegion6/](https://facebook.com/FEMARegion6/).

