

CLEAN-UP PROGRAM

Households can face clean-up and demolition bills of up to several thousand dollars. This free clean-up program will allow people to spend that money rebuilding their homes.

The 2020 Clean-Up Program covers the demolition and disposal of all buildings destroyed or damaged beyond repair by this season's bushfires (including residential homes and sheds, commercial and public buildings, and other out-buildings). This may include the removal of fencing, trees and vehicles but only where it is necessary for the safe clean up of destroyed buildings.

Cost

The government-funded clean-up program is provided to property owners free of charge. You can participate in this program regardless of whether you are insured.

You must register to participate in the program. If you choose not to register for the program, you'll need to make your own arrangements to have your property cleared by a licensed contractor and dispose of the bushfire waste safely.

Registration

Property owners can register by visiting brv.vic.gov.au or by phoning **1800 560 760**.

Process

Grocon will work with property owners to start the clean-up as soon as possible. Grocon will contact each registered property owner by phone (or by email if no phone contact is available), send out a questionnaire to be returned, and arrange an appointment/inspection of the property.

At the appointment, Grocon will discuss the scope of the clean-up with the property owner, and arrange the signing of a consent form.

Following this, Grocon will assess each property on a case by case basis and give an indication of the likely time of the clean-up.

Timing

The best way to ensure a quick clean up is to register quickly. Registration for the clean-up program is open, and once you are registered, Grocon will be in touch to discuss the clean-up program process and site clean up works.

There is no cut-off date yet announced for this program. We want to give affected Victorians as much flexibility as possible. Any cut-off date will be communicated to the public well ahead of time.

Fencing, trees, cars and septic tanks

These items will be included in the clean-up only where it is necessary for the safe clean-up of destroyed buildings on a property. For example, a tree may be required to be removed if deemed to be a safety risk for works to be undertaken.

Hazardous materials

The clean up program covers the safe removal of hazardous materials like asbestos. Licenced contractors engaged in clean up activities are subject to a compliance code for removing asbestos, which includes strict measures to reduce risks.

The Environment Protection Authority Victoria can provide advice on **1300 372 842**. Further advice about can also be found at emergency.vic.gov.au.

For more information about grants, clean-up, fencing, your community's recovery and other issues, visit brv.vic.gov.au or call 1800 560 760



For advice on emergency warnings, preparedness and relief, visit emergency.vic.gov.au



Local contractors

Grocon will be seeking to use as many qualified local subcontractors as possible. Contractors or other interested parties who would like to collaborate with Grocon on the Clean-Up Program can register at www.grocon.com/bushfire-recovery-2020.

Disposal of materials

Debris and bushfire waste from the clean up will be disposed of by licenced contractors into licensed tipping sites across the state.

All waste disposal will be overseen by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and WorkSafe. Grocon will seek to maximise the amount of materials being recycled.

Other issues

If there is other fire affected vegetation on your property that you wish to have cleared, but is not posing an immediate risk, you should contact your local council or the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) on **136 186**, as you may need permission to remove it.

Dangerous trees on local roadsides will be removed by your local council. If you are concerned about a tree, please contact your local council or Regional Roads Victoria on **13 11 70**. For safety reasons, please do not attempt to remove roadside trees yourself.

For more information

More information about the 2020 Clean-Up Program is available at brv.vic.gov.au or by phoning **1800 560 760**.

ADVICE ON SAFETY AND HAZARDS

Houses, sheds and other buildings or structures burnt in a bushfire can leave potential health hazards. These may include fallen or sharp objects, smouldering coals, damaged electrical wires, leaking gas and weakened walls.

Be aware that buildings and other structures (e.g. water tanks and stands) may be unstable and in danger of collapse following bushfires. If you are unsure, seek advice from your local council's municipal building surveyor before attempting to recover items or enter your property.

Wear protective clothing before entering your property after a bushfire. Personal Protective Equipment kits can be collected from local relief centres and councils.

Where possible, try to avoid taking children onto fire-damaged properties. If you do, make sure they remain protected at all times. You should avoid entering any building where the structural integrity has been compromised by fire until it has been deemed safe.

Hazardous wastes, such as asbestos materials and burnt CCA-treated timber, need special care during handling and disposal. It is recommended that you use a licensed removalist.

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