Oregon Landscape Contractors Board
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When Is a License Required?

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What type of work requires a license?

Work NOT REQUIRING a license

- Mowing
- Edging
- Some pruning
- Weeding
- Spreading bark dust
- Adjusting sprinkler heads
- Programming irrigation controllers
- Planting of outdoor pots and containers when the pots and containers can be moved without the use of power equipment when empty or filled

Work REQUIRING a license

- Plan or install new plantings or creating new planting areas.
- Install, repair, or maintain irrigation systems with the use of compressed air.
- Plan, install, and repair artificial turf and sod.
- Plan, install, maintain, or repair arbors, decks, patios, driveways, fences, retaining walls, walkways, landscape edging or ornamental water features.
- Install, maintain, or repair drainage systems or ornamental water features.
- Tree work, removal and pruning, stump grinding, limb guying.

2. Do I need a Landscape Contracting Business license to do landscape maintenance?

Landscape maintenance is not regulated by the State of Oregon. However, you should check with your city or county for possible local license or permit requirements.

3. Can I advertise for landscape maintenance?

Yes. You may advertise for any type of maintenance work. Advertising for landscape work requiring a license as outlined in #1 above is not allowed.

4. May I do actual landscaping construction work without a landscape contracting business license?

A landscape maintenance business may perform a limited amount of "casual, minor, or inconsequential" work (see question #5, for definition) if ALL the following criteria below is met:

- Performing ongoing maintenance work for a regular customer during the year
- Limited to $500 worth (labor and materials) of this type of landscape work per job site, per year.

PLEASE NOTE: You CANNOT advertise for this work since it can only be performed for existing customers.

- Casual, minor, or inconsequential means:
  1. Replacement planting of shrubs, vines, trees, and nursery stock which are similar in habit and culture.

2. Replacement of existing lawns
3. Planting of annuals, perennials, and bulbs in existing beds
4. Non-concrete landscape edging
5. Three or fewer malfunctioning sprinkler heads with heads of the same or of a similar type and hydraulic equivalency per job site

5. **What if I am licensed with the Construction Contractors Board (CCB)?**
   Licensees with the CCB and LCB may both plan, install, maintain, or repair arbors, decks, patios, driveways, fences, retaining walls, walkways, landscape edging or ornamental water features.

   CCB contractors may also perform limited landscape work on residential property for which the contractor is under contract for the construction of a new dwelling. Irrigation work is not allowed under this exception. The total value of landscaping cannot exceed $3,850 per residential dwelling.

6. **May I repair irrigation/sprinkler systems if they are already installed?**
   No.

7. **May I prune or remove trees?**
   The Construction Contractors Board (CCB) has jurisdiction over tree work. Please contact them for information regarding exemptions.

8. **May I plant trees?**
   No. You may replace the tree if you meet the requirements listed in question #4 above.

9. **What if I'm asked to replace a section of lawn? Do I need to be licensed?**
   You must meet the requirements listed in question #4 above. You may do patch repair work to fill-in or even-out the lawn area for a regular maintenance customer.

10. **Can I spread gravel for a walkway when it is part of the maintenance work?**
    You can "refresh" the gravel of an existing path or walkway. You cannot create a new walkway or install edging.

11. **What if I only design landscapes and I don't install?**
    Landscape design work does not require a license if the designs do not include construction details or specifications.

12. **Can I subcontract to have the landscaping work performed?**
    No. You would be required to have an LCB or CCB license to arrange and contract for the installation of the work.

13. **Do I need to be licensed to apply pesticides?**
    The Department of Agriculture issues Pesticide Applicators Licenses. You can contact them at (503) 986-4550 for their requirements.

If you are interested in becoming licensed for landscape construction work, please visit our website for more information: **www.oregon.gov/lcb**

If you have other questions, please call or email the LCB office:
(503) 967-6291 or lcb.info@lcb.oregon.gov