

# News Release

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## **Unlicensed Contractors Discovered in Fresno County During CSLB Sweeps** *Contractors State License Board enforcement teams visited Fresno and Clovis Construction Sites.*

**SACRAMENTO, Calif.** – The [Contractors State License Board](http://www.cslb.ca.gov) (CSLB) recently conducted a three-day sweep in Fresno County targeting the underground economy of unlicensed activity at construction sites.

CSLB visited 17 construction sites in Fresno and Clovis from August 10 to 13, 2021, and found unlicensed contractor and workers compensation violations.

"Unlicensed contractors are a danger to consumers," said David Fogt, CSLB Registrar.

"Unlicensed contractors also hurt business owners and California's economy because they do not comply with employment responsibilities and avoid paying taxes," Fogt said.



During the sweep, nine people were cited for unlicensed contracting while working on projects that included **interior and exterior tile, remodeling, painting, plumbing, and tree services.**

Unlicensed contractors can harm consumers because they have not met licensing requirements, have not undergone background checks and are not bonded or have proper insurance.

Five workers' compensation violations were also issued during the enforcement action. A lack of workers' compensation puts business owners and homeowners at risk because consumers may be held liable if a worker gets hurt on the job. Three Stop Orders were issued which halted all employee labor at active job sites where contractors did not have workers' compensation insurance for their employees.

CSLB partnered with the California [Employment Development Department](#) for the operation. Both agencies are members of the [Labor Enforcement Task Force](#) and [Joint Enforcement Strike Force](#) partnerships made up of local and federal agencies to combat the underground economy.

During sweeps, CSLB gives unlicensed individuals information on getting licensed and information on CSLB's monthly [Get Licensed to Build workshops](#). CSLB recently launched a new [B-2 licensing classification](#) for home remodeling with the goal of promoting the growth of small businesses and increasing consumer protection.

CSLB recommends consumers protect themselves by getting at least three bids and checking references before hiring someone for a construction job over \$500 in labor and materials, and by ensuring their down payments to contractors are no more than 10% of the total cost or \$1,000, whichever is less.

Consumers can confirm a contractor is licensed using CSLB's online [Instant License Check](#). From the License Check, consumers can also view the contractor's individual license page, which indicates if the contractor is carrying workers' compensation insurance for employees. Contractors without workers' compensation insurance should not have workers on the jobsite.

Consumers can find a list of licensed contractors in their area by using CSLB's [Find My Licensed Contractor](#).

**Video Footage:** No video of these sweeps is available, however the video clips below are from a January 2020 sting operation in Paradise, California.

One-minute clip here: <https://youtu.be/8Mp1UICfgRE>  
Longer version: <https://youtu.be/6JVKVxvHNr0>

**About CSLB:** *CSLB operates under the umbrella of the Department of Consumer Affairs and licenses and regulates nearly 281,000 contractors in California. In 2020, CSLB helped consumers recover more than \$26 million in ordered restitution.*

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