



# EXAM GRAM **PROS**

**How to Get a Contractors License in California**

# How to Get a Contractors License in California

Getting a California contractor license is a big career step, so congratulations on starting the journey to this achievement. There are several steps to becoming a contractor, from submitting an application to passing the examination to getting bonded. The most intensive part of the process is the license examination, so we've created a study guide to help aspiring contractors prepare for testing. Read on to learn more about the steps to becoming a contractor.

## Steps to Become a Contractor in California

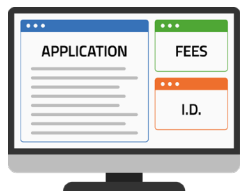
If you're interested in becoming a contractor in California, you'll need to follow these general steps.

### Step 1. Determine If You Are Eligible

Not everyone is eligible to obtain a contractor license. To receive licensure, you must first make sure you meet the following requirements:

- Be at least 18 years of age
- Have the experience and skills necessary to manage a construction business's day-to-day operations, including field supervision
- Have worked four full years at journeyman level or as a foreman, supervisor, or contractor for the license classification you're seeking (this experience must be within 10 years of the license application and be verifiable). Additionally, owner-builders may be able to qualify some of their experience by submitting a Construction Project Experience form for each project they have completed.

### Step 2. Complete the License Application & Pay Fees



The California Contractors State License Board provides license applications by business type. The application for your business type will require certain information and documents. All applications, however, require a social security number or individual taxpayer identification number. After completing the appropriate license application, you'll need to pay the associated fees. The CSLB charges two fees: an application filing fee and initial license fee. The application fee is typically \$450 while an initial license fee can range between \$200-\$350. For more information about fees, visit [cslb.ca.gov](http://cslb.ca.gov).



### Step 3. Fingerprinting After CSLB Review of Application



New applicants must submit their fingerprints as part of the CSLB's mandatory criminal background check. There is a charge for this, which varies depending on the Live Scan location. Once your application is posted, the CSLB will mail you the necessary documents for collecting fingerprints. Following this step, the CSLB may randomly select some applicants to provide documentation proving that they meet minimum experience requirements.



### Step 4. Schedule & Prepare for the Exam

Unless you have an approved waiver, you'll need to take the appropriate examination to qualify for a California contractor license. The CSLB will schedule the test date, time, and location. You'll be tested on the general knowledge required for the license classification you are seeking as well as the standard Law and Business examination. We highly recommend using an exam study guide to prepare for the test.



### Step 5. Purchase Your Bonds



Once you've passed your examination, the last step is to get bonded and satisfy workers compensation insurance requirements, or filing an exemption form for businesses with no employees. You'll need to purchase a license bond (and a Bond of Qualifying Individual if applicable) prior to being issued your license number. In addition, LLC entities will need to secure a 100k LLC employee/worker bond and liability insurance. You can get bonded quickly and reliably through Exam Cram Pro's family-owned sister company Surety First.

## Ready to Get Started?

After you've submitted your application and scheduled your fingerprinting and examination, the next step is to prepare for the big test. Exam Cram Pros has extensive study materials to help you get ready for each trade exam. Visit our website to identify the exam aligned with the trade you're seeking licensure for, and use our comprehensive guides to make sure you know your stuff on exam day.

# Checklist: How to Get a Contractors License in California

**Step 1.** Determine If You Are Eligible

**Step 2.** Complete the License Application & Pay Fees

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**Step 5.** Purchase Your Bonds