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- Adult Protective Services (APS)
- Sheriff's Department
- Fire Department
- Building & Safety / Code Enforcement
- Bureau of Street Services (Streets LA)
- Department of Public Health, Environmental Health Division
- Department of Mental Health
- Mental Health & Supportive Resources
- Hoarding/Clutter Clean-up Services
- Vectors & Hoarding



RESOURCES IN YOUR AREA

WHAT IS HOARDING DISORDER?

Hoarding disorder is a behavioral health condition in which individuals experience persistent difficulty discarding or parting with possessions, regardless of their actual value. Over time, the accumulation of items can create clutter that interferes with the safe use of living spaces and may increase risks related to fire safety, sanitation, falls or structural hazards. Hoarding behaviors can affect individuals of any age and may be associated with anxiety, trauma, depression or other mental health challenges.



Hoarding is not just clutter — it is a behavioral health condition that requires support.



WHAT IS HOARDING DISORDER?

Early action can prevent serious safety risks.



STRONG ODOR

Persistent or unusual smells inside or outside the home.



PESTS OR VERMIN

Rodents, insects or infestations present.



BLOCKED EXITS

Doors, hallways or pathways are difficult to access.



UNSAFE LIVING CONDITIONS

Clutter creating hazards or limiting safe movement.



HOARDING TASK FORCE SAFETY & EVACUATION STANDARDS

As suggested by the Los Angeles County Fire Code.

FRONT DOOR

Must fully open to allow emergency technicians and stretchers inside the home.

AISLES TO ALL ROOMS

There should be a three-foot clearance to all rooms, measured with a yardstick.

Reason: Firefighters in full gear and with stretchers need to access all rooms, front and back doors, hallways, bedrooms, kitchen and bathroom.

STACKS

Must be lower than three feet high of boxes, clutter, etc., from the floor.

CEILING CLEARANCE

There should be two feet of ceiling clearance. Additionally, nothing should be stacked on top of bookcases.

Reason: To prevent movement/falling during earthquakes.

BOOKCASES

Tall furniture and armoires should be bolted to the wall with L-brackets.

Reason: Safety, earthquake protection and disaster preparedness.

ALL EXITS MUST FULLY OPEN

Front and back doors need to open wide enough for EMTs to enter and exit with a person on a stretcher.

WINDOWS

Need to be clear of stacked boxes to permit healthy room ventilation.

WEIGHT LOAD CONCERNS

HOARDING TASK FORCE SAFETY & EVACUATION STANDARDS

As suggested by the Los Angeles County Fire Code.

ELECTRICAL OUTLETS

Should only have three or six plugs in use according to the outlet's capacity. Clearance should be one foot at each outlet.

Reason: Electrical fires occur from overloaded circuits. This occurs when too many appliances are plugged in, overworking outlets which can't safely handle the excess draw of electricity requested.

NO FLAMMABLE LIQUIDS IN THE HOME

Includes gasoline, kerosene, etc. (lighter fluid is okay).

Reason: Reduce the need for a fire department visit.

NO OPEN FLAMES

Stove flames while cooking are permissible. A fireplace must have one foot of clearance.

PETS

No more pets than the owner can quickly evacuate in an emergency.

Reason: In a fire, emergency responders won't have much time to search for too many pets.

WORKING PLUMBING

Toilets, sinks, tubs and hot and cold running water need to work properly.
Working electrical appliances such as stoves, refrigerators, heaters, etc.

Reason: California Health & Safety Code Section 17920.3 provides that any condition in a home that endangers the life, limb, health, property, safety or welfare of the public or occupants makes the home a substandard building. This section lists about 30 specific terms.

HEATERS

