



Rhode Island Department of Business Regulation
Contractors' Registration and Licensing Board
560 Jefferson Boulevard, Warwick, RI 02886
Telephone: (401) 921-1590 Fax: (401) 889-5533



GENERAL GUIDANCE FOR CONTRACTORS WORKING IN RHODE ISLAND

The laws that govern contractors doing business in Rhode Island can be found at [Rhode Island General Laws § 5-65-1 et seq.](#)

Key Take-Aways:

- Rhode Island Law requires that a contractor must be registered with the Contractors' Registration and Licensing Board ("CRLB") **prior to** offering to perform contractor services, entering a bid to perform contractor services, entering into a contract to perform contractor services, and prior to performing contractor services. R.I. Gen. Laws § 5-65-3.
 - R.I. Gen. Laws § 5-65-1(7)(i)-(iii), defines the term "Contractor" which includes, but is not limited to, a person who, undertakes or offers to undertake or submits a bid, to construct, alter, repair, improve, or demolish a structure or to perform any work in connection with the construction, alteration, repair, improvement, or demolition of a structure, and the appurtenances thereto. For the purposes of this chapter, "appurtenances" includes, but is not limited to, the installation, alteration, or repair of wells connected to a structure consistent with chapter 13.2 of title 46, garage, carport, porch, patio, decks, docks, sheds, tents, gazebos, walkways, fencing, driveways, retaining walls, swimming pools, sidewalks, stone/masonry walls, and parking lots.
 - Registration requirements can be found at the [CRLB's website \(www.crlb.ri.gov\)](http://www.crlb.ri.gov), and R.I. Gen. Laws §5-65-5.
- Rhode Island Law requires that any every subcontractor hired to perform work on a project must be registered with the CRLB, and every contractor shall maintain a list of subcontractors performing work on a project. R.I. Gen. Laws § 5-65-3(h)-(j).
- Contractors must comply with all applicable [Rhode Island State Building Code](#) requirements found under R.I. Gen. Laws Chapter 23-27.3, including but not limited to the requirement that every contractor obtain permits from local building offices **prior to performing any work on a project**. R.I. Gen. Laws § 5-65-3(m) and § 5-65-10(7).
- Rhode Island Law requires a written contract whenever a contractor offers to provide services exceeding \$1,000 in costs to the consumer. In other words, Rhode Island Law prohibits oral contracts for construction when the cost to the customer exceeds \$1,000. R.I. Gen. Laws § 5-65-3(o).
 - Rhode Island law requires that, for every written contract provided to a consumer a contractor must include a Notice of Possible Mechanic's Lien, and, if the contract is to perform work for an elderly person, a Right of Rescission notice is also required. R.I. Gen. Laws § 5-65-3(o).
- In addition to the above requirements under Rhode Island Law, [R.I. Gen. Laws § 5-65-10](#) provides for additional requirements that must be met by a contractor operating in Rhode Island, including but not limited to the prohibition on dishonest and fraudulent conduct, and the requirement to maintain proper insurance.
 - Failure to comply with R.I. Gen. Laws Chapter 5-65, could result in the Board initiating disciplinary action against a contractor, in which case that contractor will be provided an opportunity to contest the disciplinary action and the investigative findings of the Board. R.I. Gen. Laws §§ 5-65-10 and 43-35-1 *et seq.*