

Rebuilding and Repairing Your Home After the Maui Wildfire

As Maui begins to recover after the devastating effects of the wildfire, The Building Industry Association of Hawaii (BIA) is offering reliable information and resources to help home owners in the community rebuild. The BIA recommends the following five tips to help you begin to restore your home.

1. **Contact Your Insurance Company.** The first step is to review your homeowners insurance policy and contact your insurance company as soon as possible to report your damages. To support your claim, take photos of all damages and have copies of any related receipts to show the claims agent or adjuster. In addition, the BIA recommends that all individuals who were impacted by the Maui wildfires apply for federal assistance by visiting [DisasterAssistance.gov](https://www.disasterassistance.gov) or calling 800-621-FEMA (3362).
2. **Stay Safe During Damage Assessments.** After the wildfire, don't let another disaster strike. Unfortunately, injuries after the disaster are all too common, such as equipment accidents, falls, or burns. In general, burned structures and surfaces are unstable and unsafe. Experts say that homeowners should take extreme caution around trees, downed power lines, and other towering structures that may have lost stability during the fire.
3. **Create a Recovery Folder.** Rebuilding a home after a wildfire can be a complex process, with many persons, documents, and processes involved. It is recommended that as you continue through the recovery process you compile and organize any applicable contacts, communications, or forms into either virtual or physical folders in order to keep this information centralized and easily accessible.
4. **Work with a Professional Home Builder.** Hiring an expert contractor has many benefits. A professional home builder can provide a wealth of experience and professional integrity and solve any challenges you may encounter as you began to rebuild your home. The BIA of Hawaii has a list of building industry professionals who understand the intricacies of building homes in Maui and have a firm grasp on requirements to meet city ordinances, regulations, and permits.
5. **Preparing your Future Home.** Ask a building industry professional to future-proof your home for increased climate resilience. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) recently published guidance for home builders and remodelers on designing structures for resilience against natural hazards, including [fires](#).

Visit the BIA's website biahawaii.org for more information and for a complete listing of builders and subcontractors.