OTTAWA CONCRETE PROS

Locates & Disposal

Utility locates through Ontario Dig Authority before digging, and where old concrete goes in Ottawa

4 Expert Answers from Concrete Pro IQ

ottawaconcretepros.ca/construction-brain

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Q1

Excavated soil from an Ottawa patio dig: who hauls it away?

The City of Ottawa's Trail Waste Facility lists soil (top soil, sand, sod) at $81.90 per tonne, and large quantities over 5 tonnes must be pre-approved; its fill rate is for asphalt, masonry and concrete without rebar. Ask the contractor to spell out in the quote what happens to the spoil.

Who removes it comes down to what the written quote says. Ask before signing whether excavation spoil is included, how much soil the dig is expected to produce, and where it will go. If the contractor is taking it off site, ask whether that is priced by the load or by volume.

A few things worth knowing before the dig starts. Under the Ontario Underground Infrastructure Notification System Act, 2012, anyone who excavates, grades or breaks ground is an excavator and must submit a locate request through Ontario Dig Authority before digging. Locates are free. The Act requires the request to go in at least five business days before the dig is expected to start, and no more than 30 days before. Ask who will submit the locate request, because the Act places the obligation on whoever digs.

If the patio is near the property line, both Zoning By-law 2008-250 and Zoning By-law 2026-50 apply to applications deemed complete on or after March 11, 2026, with the most restrictive provisions from each governing. Soft landscaping requirements under Zoning By-law 2026-50 section 802 set minimum percentages for front and rear yards, so the area being paved is worth confirming with the City before the sod comes off.

The contractor doing the work is required to hold a City of Ottawa hardscaping contractor licence, which has been in effect since March 1, 2026. Ask to see a copy of the licence and check the City's published list of licensed hardscaping contractors yourself.

Before signing, ask the contractor to put the excavation depth, the estimated volume of spoil, and the disposal plan in writing as a separate line in the quote.

Q2

Are private lines to my Orleans shed marked by a locate?

The Ontario Underground Infrastructure Notification System Act, 2012 requires a locate request before any digging, and Ontario Dig Authority relays that request to buried infrastructure owners, who then mark their lines. We found no statement in that Act or on Ontario Dig Authority's site confirming that privately owned lines, such as a line running from your house to a shed, are marked through that process.

Whether the owner of a private line will respond to a locate request, or whether a separate arrangement is needed to identify it, is not something we found addressed in the Act or in Ontario Dig Authority's published guidance.

Before any digging starts for a shed pad or footings in Orleans, there are two things to sort out. First, submit a locate request through Ontario Dig Authority at least five business days before the dig is expected to start, as the Act requires. Locates are free. Second, ask separately who will mark any private lines on your property. Do not assume the public locate covers it, and do not assume it does not: get a clear answer before breaking ground.

The locate requirement applies to anyone who digs, including a homeowner doing their own work. If a contractor is doing the digging, ask before signing anything who will submit the locate request and who is responsible for identifying the private line to the shed.

When you are comparing written quotes for the concrete pad itself, put the base depth and thickness in writing, the specified concrete strength, the finish, and whether removal of any existing material and disposal are included, side by side before you decide.

Q3

Does Trail Road take concrete with rebar in Ottawa?

The City of Ottawa's Trail Waste Facility rate sheet lists "Fill (asphalt, masonry, concrete without rebar)" at $144 per tonne above 250 kg, with a $36 minimum for loads under 250 kg. That category is specifically described as concrete without rebar, and the rate sheet also requires it to be free of waste including metal.

We found no City rate or acceptance category for concrete with rebar or wire mesh at the Trail facility. That gap in the published information matters: it does not mean the facility refuses it, but it does mean you cannot assume it is accepted under the fill rate or at all. Before breaking out a slab that has reinforcement in it, it is worth contacting the Trail facility directly to ask whether they accept reinforced concrete, under what category, and at what rate.

A few practical points follow from this. If a contractor is handling demolition and disposal, ask them to confirm in writing how they plan to dispose of the broken concrete, whether it contains rebar or mesh, and whether that disposal cost is included in the quote. Getting that itemized before work starts avoids a surprise charge at the end.

If you are not sure whether your existing slab has reinforcement, ask the contractor during the assessment, and settle the disposal question before the job is priced.

If you are looking for Ottawa concrete contractors to assess a removal or replacement project, the request form on this site sends your details to contractors listed in the Ottawa Construction Network directory.

Q4

Do locate marks expire before my Ottawa pour?

We found no expiry for locate marks in the Ontario Underground Infrastructure Notification System Act, 2012, and no number of days from Ontario Dig Authority for how long a locate stays valid. That means you should not assume the marks on your lawn are still good just because the dig has not started yet.

Here is what the Act does say. You submit a standard locate request no more than 30 days before you expect to break ground, and each infrastructure owner has five business days to respond and mark their lines. The request window of 30 days before the dig gives you a practical outer limit for when to submit, but the Act does not say the marks themselves expire at 30 days or any other point. If your pour date shifts, or if rain, frost or site work disturbs the marks before the contractor digs the base, ask who will resubmit the request and get fresh marks before any ground is broken.

A few things worth knowing for an Ottawa concrete job. The Act defines an excavator as anyone who digs, grades, excavates or breaks ground, including a homeowner. Locates are free; the Act says no fee is charged for submitting a request or for doing a locate. Ontario Dig Authority relays your request to the buried infrastructure owners, who physically mark the lines. Ask your contractor who will submit the locate request before work starts, and confirm that any private lines, such as a line running to a garage, shed or outdoor lighting, are also identified, because we found no statement that those are covered by the public locate system.

The practical question for your pour is whether the marks on the ground will still be readable and accurate on the day the excavator arrives. If there is any doubt, the safest step is to resubmit through Ontario Dig Authority and wait for fresh responses before digging begins.

Ask your contractor directly whether they will submit the locate request or whether that falls to you, and get that answer before the job is scheduled, because whoever breaks ground is the excavator under the Act.

Disclaimer: This guide is provided for informational purposes only by Ottawa Concrete Pros. It does not constitute professional advice. Always consult qualified contractors and your local building authority (the City of Ottawa) before starting any concrete project, and request utility locates before anyone digs. Concrete work in Ontario must meet the 2024 Ontario Building Code (O. Reg. 163/24) where it applies. Information is current as of November 15, 2026 and may change. Visit **ottawaconcretepros.ca** for the latest answers.