

Thank you for contacting the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation to seek clarification on whether your business qualifies as an Essential Business under Governor Evers' ["Safer at Home" Order](#).

Your inquiry came to us from a form on the Essential Business Declaration page on our [website](#).

As noted in this [FAQ document](#), landscaping is considered a Nonessential Operation under the Order.

Unfortunately, under the Governor's Order, landscaping and lawn care are not considered "Critical Trades," and there is not any category in the Order that would classify a landscaping or lawn care business as an "Essential Business or Operation." Similarly, the delivery of plants and flowers does not qualify as an "Essential Business or Operation."

Some of the services landscaping companies provide, such as pesticide application and forestry and arborists, are covered under "Critical Trades" in Section 13.n. of the Order. Also, under Section 10, the Order specifies that construction, including home construction, is considered "Essential Infrastructure," but please also know that it goes on to say that "optional or aesthetic construction should be avoided." Business focused on construction can continue.

Greenhouses that are necessary to support the agricultural industry for food production are Essential Businesses or Operations.

Note that Nonessential Businesses are authorized to conduct Minimum Basic Operations under Section 14 of the Order. Minimum Basic Operations include the following, provided that employees comply with Social Distancing Requirements, to the extent possible, while carrying out such operations:

- The minimum necessary activities to maintain the value of the business's inventory, preserve the condition of the business's physical plant and equipment, ensure security, process payroll and employee benefits, or for related functions, including where these functions are outsourced to other entities and
- The minimum necessary activities to facilitate employees of the business being able to continue to work remotely from their residences.
- Minimum Basic Operations does NOT include opening your business to serve customers in person. You may only continue service via phone or virtually.

For the latest information on programs and resources available to Wisconsin businesses facing operational challenges resulting from COVID-19 pandemic, we invite you to visit our COVID-19 Business Resources [page](#).