

California Mechanics Lien Guide for Material Suppliers

Deadline Summary	
Preliminary Notice Deadline:	20 days
Lien Filing Deadline:	90 days

Step-by-Step Instructions

When to Send Preliminary Notice

- Within 20 days of first furnishing
- Trigger: From First Delivery

Who to Serve It To

- Property Owner
- Direct Contractor
- Construction Lender

What Information to Include

- Your company name and address
- Property owner's name and address
- General contractor's name (if applicable)
- Description of materials/services provided
- Project address or legal description

Common Mistakes to Avoid

- 20-day preliminary notice deadline is strictly enforced
- Late notice limits recovery to work within 20 days of notice
- Deadline can shorten to 30 days if Notice of Completion recorded

Quick Checklist

- Send preliminary notice within 20 days
- File lien within 90 days of last work
- Serve notice on all required parties
- Include all required information
- Keep proof of service/delivery

Statute Citations

- California Civil Code § 8200 (Preliminary Notice)
- California Civil Code § 8412 (Lien Recording)
- California Civil Code § 8414 (Deadlines)

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