

TRADE INTELLIGENCE PLATFORM

# ImportGenius Removal Guide

How to protect your trade secrets from ImportGenius data mining

DIFFICULTY

Beginner

READ TIME

12 minutes

VERSION

2024

Strategic approach to removing your import/export data from ImportGenius and preventing future data collection.



Remova.org

# ImportGenius Removal Guide

## About ImportGenius

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ImportGenius is a major trade intelligence platform that specializes in U.S. import/export data analysis. They provide detailed shipment tracking, supplier discovery, and competitive intelligence services to businesses worldwide.

## Data Collection Methods

### Primary Sources:

- U.S. Customs and Border Protection manifests
- Port authority records
- Shipping line databases
- International trade documentation

### Intelligence Products:

- Supplier-buyer relationship mapping
- Import volume trends and analysis
- Market share calculations
- Competitive benchmarking reports

## Assessment Phase

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### Initial Data Discovery

#### 1. Search Your Company Profile

- Visit [importgenius.com](https://www.importgenius.com)

- Use the search function with your company name
- Try variations including:
  - Full legal name
  - Common abbreviations
  - DBA names
  - Previous company names

## **2. Document Exposed Information**

- Screenshot all search results
- Note specific shipment records
- Identify supplier/buyer relationships
- Record volume and frequency data

## **3. Evaluate Business Impact**

- Assess competitive sensitivity
- Identify trade secret exposure
- Calculate potential financial impact
- Document strategic vulnerabilities

# **Removal Request Process**

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## **Contact Information**

### **Primary Contact:**

- Email: support@importgenius.com
- Phone: +1 (310) 691-1000
- Website: importgenius.com/contact

**Legal/Privacy Requests:**

- Email: legal@importgenius.com
- Address: ImportGenius, 12655 W Jefferson Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90066

## Required Documentation

**Company Information:**

- Federal Tax ID (EIN)
- State incorporation documents
- Current business license
- Authorized representative identification

**Request Specifics:**

- Exact data to be removed
- Legal basis for removal
- Business justification
- Contact preferences for response

## Formal Request Template

**Subject:** Data Privacy Request - Removal of Trade Records for [Company Name]

Dear ImportGenius Legal Team,

I hereby formally request the removal of all trade data, shipment records, and derived intelligence products for my company from your platform and databases.

**Company Information:**

- Legal Name: [Full company legal name]
- Federal EIN: [Tax identification number]
- State of Incorporation: [State]

- Business Address: [Complete address]

**Requester Information:**

- Name: [Your full name]
- Title: [Your position]
- Authority: [CEO/President/Authorized Representative]
- Contact: [Email and phone]

**Request Details:**

Please remove all records including but not limited to:

- Import/export shipment data
- Supplier and buyer relationship information
- Volume and frequency analysis
- Market intelligence reports
- Any cached or archived data

**Legal Basis:**

This request is submitted under:

- California Consumer Privacy Act (CCPA)
- Legitimate business interest in protecting trade secrets
- Right to privacy under applicable state laws
- Protection of competitive information

**Business Justification:**

The continued publication of our trade data creates significant competitive disadvantages and potentially violates our agreements with suppliers and customers regarding confidential business information.

**Verification Requirements:**

Please provide written confirmation when removal is complete, including:

- Date of removal implementation
- Scope of data removed
- Confirmation that data will not be re-collected
- Timeline for removal from cached/archived systems

I request completion of this removal within 30 days of this notice as required under applicable privacy laws.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

[Your name and signature]

[Date]

## Verification and Follow-Up

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### Post-Removal Verification

#### **Immediate Checks:**

1. Search company name on ImportGenius
2. Verify removal from all search variations
3. Check supplier/buyer relationship data
4. Confirm removal from intelligence reports

#### **Extended Monitoring:**

- Weekly searches for 30 days
- Monthly checks for 6 months
- Set up Google alerts for company + ImportGenius
- Monitor competitor intelligence reports

# Follow-Up Communication

If no response within 15 days:

**Subject:** Urgent Follow-Up: Data Removal Request - [Company Name]

Dear ImportGenius Team,

I am following up on my data removal request submitted on [date] for [Company Name].

As required under California privacy law, I need confirmation of:

1. Receipt of my original request
2. Current status of the removal process
3. Expected completion timeline
4. Any additional information needed

Please respond within 5 business days to avoid potential regulatory escalation.

Best regards,

[Your signature]

# Advanced Strategies

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## Legal Escalation Options

### **State Regulatory Complaints:**

- California Attorney General's Office
- State privacy enforcement agencies
- Business licensing authorities

### **Federal Options:**

- FTC consumer protection complaints
- Industry-specific regulatory bodies

- Trade association advocacy groups

## Alternative Approaches

### Negotiated Solutions:

- Partial data masking instead of full removal
- Restriction of data access levels
- Exclusion from certain intelligence products
- Ongoing monitoring agreements

### Business Relationship Leverage:

- Contact through existing business relationships
- Industry association mediation
- Mutual business partner advocacy
- Professional network connections

## Prevention and Ongoing Protection

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### Proactive Measures

#### Supply Chain Management:

- Include data protection clauses in shipping contracts
- Work with freight forwarders who prioritize privacy
- Use customs brokers committed to data protection
- Implement trade route diversification

#### Legal Protections:

- Update terms of service to address data aggregation
- Include trade secret protections in supplier agreements

- Implement competitive intelligence monitoring
- Consider trademark protection for company identifiers

## Monitoring Systems

### Automated Alerts:

- Google Alerts for company name + trade data platforms
- Social media monitoring for intelligence reports
- Industry publication surveillance
- Competitor intelligence tracking

### Regular Audits:

- Quarterly searches of major platforms
- Annual comprehensive trade data audits
- Supplier data handling reviews
- Customer data sharing assessments

## Common Obstacles and Solutions

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### Obstacle: "Public Records Exception"

#### Counter-Strategy:

- Emphasize processed intelligence vs. raw records
- Reference privacy laws that don't exempt aggregated data
- Highlight competitive harm from data compilation
- Provide evidence of business damage

# Obstacle: Technical Implementation Delays

## Resolution Approach:

- Request specific implementation timeline
- Ask for interim data access restrictions
- Demand regular status updates
- Consider professional removal service acceleration

# Obstacle: Incomplete Removal

## Verification Protocol:

- Test with multiple search variations
- Check subsidiary and affiliate data
- Verify removal from partner platforms
- Monitor for data reappearance

# Success Metrics and Expectations

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## Typical Results

### Response Rates:

- Initial acknowledgment: 80-90% within 2 weeks
- Substantive response: 60-70% within 30 days
- Full compliance: 40-60% of requests

### Timeline Expectations:

- Simple removals: 15-30 days
- Complex cases: 30-90 days
- Appeals process: 60-120 days

# Factors Affecting Success

## Positive Factors:

- Clear legal standing
- Professional communication
- Specific data identification
- Documented business harm
- California business location

## Challenging Factors:

- Public company status
- Large data volume
- Multiple data sources
- International operations
- Ongoing business relationships

# When Professional Help is Needed

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Consider engaging specialists when:

## Legal Complexity:

- Multiple jurisdiction issues
- Unclear privacy law application
- Potential litigation risks
- Complex corporate structures

## Scale Requirements:

- Multiple platform presence

- High-volume data exposure
- Time-sensitive removal needs
- Ongoing monitoring requirements

**Business Criticality:**

- Mission-critical competitive information
- High-value trade relationships
- Significant financial exposure
- Regulatory compliance requirements

Professional removal services typically achieve 70-85% success rates compared to 40-60% for individual requests, with significantly faster resolution times.