

Pack Rat & Hoarding

Caldecon, Inc. provides hoarding services to residential and commercial customers.

Pack Rat houses are known as houses that contain an over-abundance of materials usually collected by the habitat dweller. It is also known as hoarding which is defined as the acquisition of, and inability to discard worthless items even though they appear (to others) to have no value. We understand that hoarding is a disease.

Hoarding is listed as the fourth symptom dimension of OCD (Obsessive Compulsive Disorder) in the DSM IV (Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders). We understand this and are empathetic to the customer and will strive to make our clients as comfortable as possible while at the same time realizing that this is a distressed property. Oftentimes distressed properties are a health risk to the home dweller and pose an immediate danger to the occupant.

Caldecon will strive to work with your insurance adjuster to start the cleanup process; however, it is our experience that most hoarding cleanup jobs won't be covered by insurance companies. We also realize that hoarding cleanup jobs can be expensive because of the man hours needed to complete these jobs. We will make every effort to get your cleanup job finished as quickly and painlessly as possible. Most often, the contents of these houses need to be sorted because they are a mixture of valuable property and domestic waste. Caldecon will work with the customer in sorting out salvageable property, possibly donating to Goodwill or some similar organization.

Every customer and house has different needs. We have even cleaned out homes while the owner is living inside the house. While this might sound unusual, we will do whatever is necessary and comfortable for you. Our procedure is to photograph the homes we clean, every day, as we clean. This generally helps us remember where things were days later when we put them back and helps everyone remember items as the process continues.

Our process generally begins with emptying the house completely, hauling readily apparent refuse to large bins placed outside the home for transport to domestic waste dumping facilities. Questionable property is always set aside for the client to decide what to do with. Other property such as furniture and personal belongings are stored in a secure place. Later, structural contents such as carpets, curtains, 40 year old stoves, can be cleaned or removed depending on their condition and the customer's needs. The house is then vacuumed and cleaned from top to bottom, meaning ceilings, walls and flooring. Referrals to pest control companies or structural contractors can be made at this point if needed. Restoration of the home to a livable and clean condition is our goal. After the home is sanitized, we move cleaned furniture and possessions back in the house. It is our experience that this is the most rewarding part of the job because for the customer, it is like receiving a new home and a fresh start on life again!

Below are a few testimonials from our customers:

These people are amazing.

By karen g.

We were at a loss trying to figure out how to make my uncle's house livable again. He had 50 years of collected stuff in it. He could only walk through in narrow dangerous cluttered paths. But then we found Elizabeth Freebird who owns and operates Caldecon Inc. She was not even slightly overwhelmed by the task. Under her command the house was emptied, sorted, cleaned, painted, repaired and restored to a livable condition in one week. Her crew was cheerful and hardworking. Elizabeth is a kind non-judgemental person who was helpful and thoughtful in so many ways. I can't imagine what we would have done without her and her crew. A totally great experience to work with them even under the difficult circumstances.

Posted 10/02/07 at 4:41pm

We got our lives back! Thank you Caldecon!

By Lucinda G.

My mother is a hoarder and has let her property get seriously run down. I have tried for years to get her to let go of some of her "Stuff" to no avail. She had a stroke several years ago and I have been wanting to move in with her but her "Stuff" left no room for me. I knew I couldn't clean out the contents of an 1800 Sq.Ft house, sort and take things to storage all by myself. My blood pressure went sky high with the anxiety I was feeling. I was also too embarrassed to let family and friends see how things have gotten. Every time I tried to help my Mom get organized and clean up, we would just end up arguing over her "Stuff". I called Caldecon and Elizabeth Freebird, its founder and CEO, came out and talked to my Mom and I. She saw our plight and came up with a master plan to clean and de-clutter the house and give my Mom back control of her environment. Elizabeth's empathy helped my Mom to finally make a giant step and let professionals help her. The Caldecon crew spent 12 days packing up things and taking them to storage. They filled 4 dumpsters full of trash, ripped out the carpet, washed, cleaned, deodorized and painted the entire inside of her house. They also cleaned out the garage and back yard. We now have a clean house and property and a fresh start. I have since moved in with my Mom and we are continuing to renovate the house with new appliances, flooring and furniture. My Mom has a renewed zest for living that I haven't seen in years and we are having fun for a change. Due to her clean and de-cluttered environment, even her health has improved. She is now able to do many more things for herself, rather than just sit in the middle of her "Stuff". Elizabeth and Caldecon has given us both our lives back, and we are no longer ruled by Mom's "Stuff". If you (or a family member) is a hoarder or are unable to care for your home, and you want to change your life, call Caldecon. Many Baby Boomers have elderly parents that have accumulated "treasures" for many years and you

don't know where to start to help sort through it all, let alone have the time to devote to such a task. Let Elizabeth develop a plan suited to your special situation. Do not be ashamed or embarrassed a single day longer. Caldecon was the answer to my prayers!

First Review! Posted 09/21/07 at 11:28am

Copied from Hoarding Cleanup

*Note - Aug 2009 Link to CNN article that talks about hoarding and it's relation to OCD.