

BuildDetect beta quick start

Set up your account, find a project in your area, and tell us what worked. This guide includes written steps and screenshots so you can start without a video.

1 Create or sign in to your account

[Open BuildDetect sign in](#)

Choose Create account if you are new. Enter your company name, contact name, email address, and a password. If prompted, check your email to confirm the account, then return and sign in. Use the same account throughout setup.

2 Activate your beta access

[Open the account access page](#)

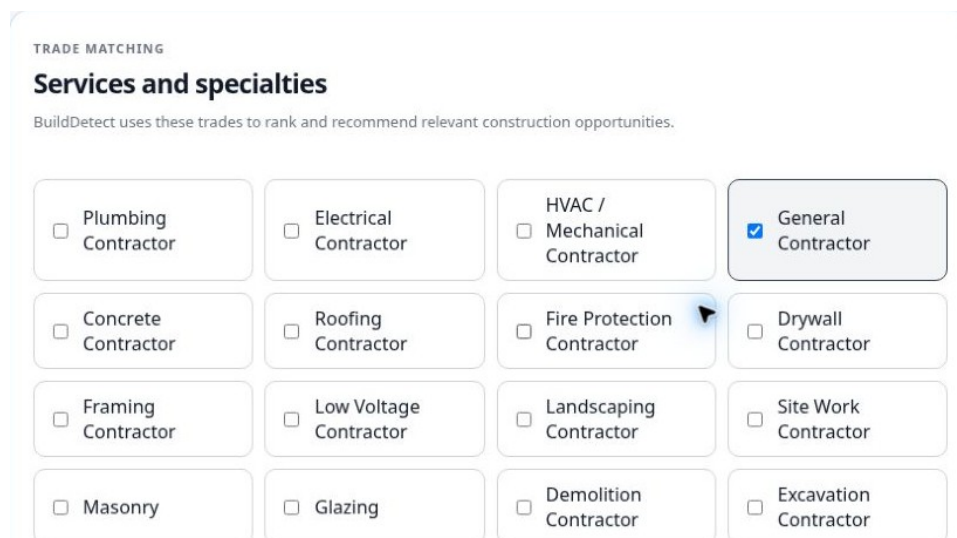
Under Have a founding-beta code?, paste the personal code from your invitation into Beta code. Select Activate founding beta. After activation, choose Complete Contractor Profile. If your profile is already complete, choose View My Opportunities.

Already showing active access? Continue to Settings. If the result is unclear, keep your original code and use Refresh account access before trying again. If activation still fails, reply to your invitation with the error message. Do not post your code publicly.

3 Set your company details and trades

[Open Settings](#)

Confirm your company name, contact name, and email under Business information. Under Services and specialties, select at least one trade your business performs.



TRADE MATCHING

Services and specialties

BuildDetect uses these trades to rank and recommend relevant construction opportunities.

☐ Plumbing Contractor	☐ Electrical Contractor	☐ HVAC / Mechanical Contractor	☒ General Contractor
☐ Concrete Contractor	☐ Roofing Contractor	☐ Fire Protection Contractor	☐ Drywall Contractor
☐ Framing Contractor	☐ Low Voltage Contractor	☐ Landscaping Contractor	☐ Site Work Contractor
☐ Masonry	☐ Glazing	☐ Demolition Contractor	☐ Excavation Contractor

Example selection. Choose the trades your business actually performs.

Set your service area

4 Choose your coverage and save

CITY/AREA COVERAGE

Enter one area per line or separate areas with commas. When ZIP code is blank, these areas are matched city-wide and no mileage radius is applied.

ZIP-RADIUS COVERAGE IN MILES

ZIP CODE FOR RADIUS CENTER

Leave blank for City/area coverage.
Enter a ZIP code to activate strict ZIP-radius coverage; BuildDetect will not substitute a city centroid.

Example controls. Existing account values are hidden; enter your own service area.

City coverage: enter cities in City/area coverage, one per line or separated by commas. Leave ZIP code for radius center blank to use city-wide matching.

Radius coverage: enter a five-digit ZIP in ZIP code for radius center and a whole-number distance from 1 to 500 in ZIP-radius coverage in miles. Projects without coordinates may be omitted.

Select Save profile and look for Contractor profile updated successfully. These preferences apply to Dashboard and Opportunity Feed. Find Projects and Alerts use their own filters or preferences.

For standard contractor accounts, these preferences apply to Dashboard and Opportunity Feed. Find Projects uses your selected jurisdiction. Alerts use their own city and trade preferences.

Save profile

Confirm your setup

After saving, your company details, selected trades, and service area should reflect your choices. You can return to Settings to change these preferences.

If you cannot complete setup, reply to your invitation or email operations@builddetect.com with the step you reached and any error text. Do not send your password or post your invitation code.

Find projects in your area

[Open Find Projects](#)

5 Set the location and run your search

Choose a jurisdiction you work in. For a narrower search, enter an Exact ZIP. Select Search projects and wait for results.

The screenshot shows a search filter interface with the following fields and values:

- KEYWORD:** Address, project, permit or /
- JURISDICTION:** All jurisdictions (dropdown)
- EXACT ZIP:** 92101
- STATE:** CA
- PROJECT TYPE:** Building, electrical, remodel...
- CATEGORY:** All categories (dropdown)
- STATUS:** All statuses (dropdown)
- MINIMUM VALUE:** 100000
- SORT RESULTS:** Best opportunities (dropdown)

At the bottom, there is a checkbox for "Include historical/closed records" (unchecked), a blue "Search projects" button, and a "Clear filters" link with a cursor icon.

Below the form, a note states: "ZIP+4 uses the first five digits. Only projects with a matching recorded ZIP are included. Leave jurisdiction blank to search all jurisdictions."

Example filter screen. Gray field text is a placeholder, not an applied search. Enter your own values.

Exact ZIP matches the ZIP recorded on a project. It is not a mileage-radius search. Records without a matching recorded ZIP will not appear in that filtered search.

If results are too narrow, clear Exact ZIP and search again while keeping your jurisdiction selected. Check any other filters you have set, such as status, project type, category, or minimum value.

6 Choose a project to review

Review the project status and value. Open View intelligence on a result to see more. Use Next at the bottom of the results to browse another page when available.

Saved location preferences do not replace your Find Projects filters. Check the jurisdiction each time you start a new search.

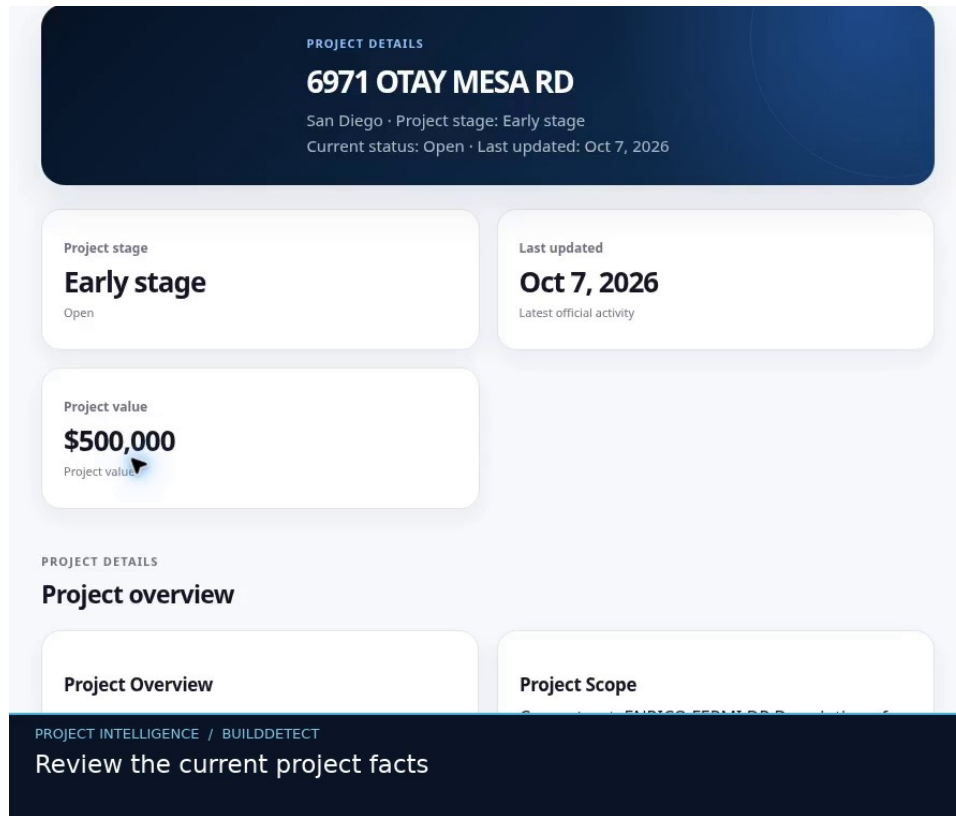
Your first session checklist

Sign in and activate access; save your company, trades, and service area; run one search; review one project; send feedback about anything that blocked or confused you.

Review a project and send feedback

7 Read the project intelligence

Open View intelligence. Review the current facts, project overview and scope, recommended next action, and available stakeholder information.



Example project detail. Use the current record and its official source to check the latest information.

Read the data limitations before outreach. Check the linked official source where available. A project record or listed contact does not by itself mean work is open for bids, that someone is the buying contact, or that the information is current.

8 Tell us how it went

Reply to your invitation or use Submit support request in Settings. Useful feedback includes:

- The step you reached, what you expected, and what happened instead
- The jurisdiction, filters, and project name or link, plus any error message
- Your browser/device and a screenshot if helpful; hide passwords, codes, and unrelated personal information
- Whether you found a useful project and what would make BuildDetect more useful for your business