

# Do I need a DNR Permit for Waterfront Restoration to Remove my Lake Weeds?

After the consultation with your sales representative, we will notify you if you need to apply for a permit. If a permit is needed, Waterfront Restoration will fill out all forms necessary and pay the processing fee associated with filing the permit. You will only be required to sign the permit and send back to us. From there we will mail it to the DNR regional office and notify the DNR when the removal process is taking place.

Aquatic plants growing in public waters are the property of the state. A "public water" is generally any body of water 2.5 acres or larger within an incorporated city limit, or 10 acres or larger in rural areas.

## **When a permit is NOT needed**

If you are a lakeshore-property owner who wants to create or maintain a swimming or boat-docking area, you may cut or pull submerged vegetation without a DNR permit under certain conditions:

- First, the area to be cleared must be no larger than 2,500 square feet.
- Second, the cleared area must not extend more than 50 feet along the shoreline or one-half the length of your shoreline, whichever is less.

A boat channel up to 15 feet wide, and as long as necessary to reach open water, may also be cleared, through submerged vegetation. (The boat channel is in addition to the 2,500 square feet allowed). The cutting or pulling may be done by hand or with hand-operated or powered equipment that does not significantly alter the course, current, or cross-section of the lake bottom. Such control cannot be done with draglines, bulldozers, hydraulic jets, suction dredges, automated aquatic plant control devices, or other powered earth-moving equipment. After you have cut or pulled aquatic plants, you must dispose of them on land to prevent them from drifting onto your neighbor's property or washing back into the lake.

In addition, a channel 15 feet wide through floating-leaf vegetation extending to open water may be maintained by mechanical means without a permit. Any other destruction of floating-leaf vegetation requires a permit.

A DNR permit is not needed to gather aquatic plants for personal use (except for wild rice) or for constructing a shooting or observation blind.

## **Control methods which MUST HAVE a permit-**

- Destruction of any emergent vegetation (for example, cattails and bulrushes).
- Cutting or pulling by hand, or by mechanical means, submerged vegetation in an area larger than 2,500 square feet.
- Applying herbicides or algicides.
- Moving or removing a bog of any size that is free-floating or lodged in any area other than its place of origin in public waters.
- Transplanting aquatic plants into public waters.
- Use of automated aquatic plant control devices (such as the WeedRoller).
- Physical removal of floating-leaf vegetation from an area larger than a channel 15 feet wide extending to open water.

Site inspections are required for first time permits. Applications may be denied or modified

## **Activities NOT allowed:**

- Excavating the lake bottom for aquatic plant control
- Use of hydraulic jets
- Destroying or preventing the growth of aquatic plants by using lake bottom barriers.
- Removing aquatic vegetation within posted fish-spawning areas.
- Removing aquatic plants from an undeveloped shoreline.
- Removing aquatic plants where they do not interfere with swimming, boating, or other recreation.