

Riprap Exemption Checklist



Certain activities in navigable waters are exempt from needing a permit under [Chapter 30](#). Use this checklist to determine if your project qualifies for an exemption.

Your proposed project is eligible if it meets **all** the following conditions:

- **ASNRI/PRF/PNW:** The riprap may not be located in an area of special natural resource interest (ASNRI) or within a public right features (PRF) - [Property Lookup for Designated Waterways and Wetlands | Waterway protection | Wisconsin DNR](#)
- **Federal and State Threatened and Endangered Species:** This exemption does not address threatened and endangered species. Applicants are required to comply with Wisconsin's Endangered Species Law (s. 29.604, Wis. Stats.) and the Federal Endangered Species Act. To determine if the project is in compliance, visit the [NHI Public Portal](#), and enter the project area to generate an Endangered Resources (ER) Preliminary Assessment. Read the ER Preliminary Assessment carefully to determine follow-up steps, if needed.

EROSION CONTROL/RIPARIAN/TYPE

- Erosion control measures shall meet or exceed the [WDNR Technical Standards](#) developed under Subch. V of ch. NR 151, Wis. Admin. Code. Any area where soil is exposed during construction shall be stabilized or revegetated immediately upon reaching final grade using sod, seed and anchored mulch, seed and erosion control mat, or rip rap to prevent erosion and limit sediment discharge to the waterway.
- Unless part of a stormwater management plant; all temporary erosion and sediment control practices shall be removed upon final site stabilizations.
 - *Areas disturbed during construction or installation shall be restored.*
- Rip rap does not reach an elevation higher than 36 inches above the ordinary high-water mark or above the storm wave height, as calculated using the Department's erosion calculator.
- Rip rap, rip rap replacement, or rip rap repair may not exceed 200 linear feet of shoreline on an inland lake, flowage stream or river. Rip rap, rip rap replacement or rip rap repair may not exceed 300 linear feet in a Great Lakes waterbody.
- Rip rap is clean field stone or quarry stone with a diameter of no less than 6 inches and no greater than 48 inches.
- The toe of the rip rap does not extend more than eight feet waterward of the ordinary high-water mark.
- The rip rap slope is not steeper than 1 foot horizontal to 1.25 feet vertical.
- Any grading, excavation, and land disturbances shall be confined to the minimum area necessary for the construction and may not exceed 10,000 square feet.
 - *Check with your county zoning department before commencing land disturbing or vegetation removal activities.*
 - *Dredging is **not allowed** for the placement or maintenance of any shore erosion control structure.*
 - *Mechanical equipment may not be operated below the ordinary high watermark or on the bed of a navigable waterway.*

PLACEMENT/WATERWAY

- The riprap must be in the riparian zone of interest and may be placed and maintained only by a riparian landowner and/or in lakes or flowages.
 - [Determination of riparian zones](#)
- No material, soil, or fill may be placed in a wetland, or below the ordinary high water mark (OHWM) of any navigable waterway.
- The rip rap must follow the natural contour of the shoreline.
- Filter fabric or clean-washed gravel must be used as a filter layer under the rip rap.

Shoreline Maintenance Exemption Checklist



Certain activities in navigable waters are exempt from needing a permit under [Chapter 30](#). Use this checklist to determine if your project qualifies for an exemption.

Your proposed project is eligible if it meets **all** the following conditions:

- **Wild Rice:** The activity **may not** be conducted in an area with floating bogs or wild rice.
 - *Note: The Surface Water Data Viewer maps wild rice areas at the following website: [WDNR Surface Water Data Viewer](#).*
- **Invasive Species:** All equipment or portions of equipment used for the maintenance activity should be decontaminated for invasive species and viruses before and after use following the most recent Department approved BMPs to avoid the spread of invasive species. These protocols and practices can be found on the Department website at <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Invasives/bmp.html> and at <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Invasives/documents/EquipOper.pdf>.
- **Federal and State Threatened and Endangered Species:** This exemption does not address threatened and endangered species. Applicants are required to comply with Wisconsin's Endangered Species Law (s. 29.604, Wis. Stats.) and the Federal Endangered Species Act. To determine if the project is in compliance, visit the [NHI Public Portal](#), and enter the project area to generate an Endangered Resources (ER) Preliminary Assessment. Read the ER Preliminary Assessment carefully to determine follow-up steps, if needed.

RIPARIAN/FILL

- The shoreline maintenance activity must occur in the shoreline area between the ordinary high-water mark and the water's edge within the riparian zone O interest and only in the following waterbody shorelines:
 - *Lake Superior*
 - *Lake Michigan*
 - *Green Bay*
 - *Sturgeon Bay*
 - *Sawyer's Harbor*
 - *Fox River from its mouth up to the dam at De Pere*
- A riparian owner may only complete the following maintenance activities on their riparian land that abuts the shoreline under this exemption:
 - *Level or groom sand or soil so long as the area is made up of unconsolidated material predominately composed of sand, rock, and pebble.*
 - *Remove debris or mow vegetation from the riparian land that abuts the shoreline area.*
- No material may be brought in from offsite sources to do the maintenance work. The activity may not interfere with the rights of other riparian owners.
- The activity may not involve the filling of a coastal wetland or alteration of a coastal dune.
- No material removed from the riparian zone adjacent to the shoreline area may be used to conduct the activity.

Biological Shore Erosion Control Exemption Checklist



Certain activities in navigable waters are exempt from needing a permit under [Chapter 30](#). Use this checklist to determine if your project qualifies for an exemption.

Your proposed project is eligible if it meets **all** the following conditions:

- **ASNRI/PRF/PNW:** The biological shore erosion control may not be located in an area of special natural resource interest (ASNRI) or within a public right features (PRF) - [Property Lookup for Designated Waterways and Wetlands | Waterway protection | Wisconsin DNR](#).
- **Federal and State Threatened and Endangered Species:** This exemption does not address threatened and endangered species. Applicants are required to comply with Wisconsin's Endangered Species Law (s. 29.604, Wis. Stats.) and the Federal Endangered Species Act. To determine if the project is in compliance, visit the [NHI Public Portal](#), and enter the project area to generate an [Endangered Resources \(ER\) Preliminary Assessment](#). Read the ER Preliminary Assessment carefully to determine follow-up steps, if needed.

EROSION CONTROL/RIPARIAN

- Erosion control measures shall meet or exceed the [WDNR Technical Standards](#) developed under Subch. V of ch. NR 151, Wis. Admin. Code. Any area where soil is exposed during construction shall be stabilized or revegetated immediately upon reaching final grade using sod, seed and anchored mulch, seed and erosion control mat, or rip rap to prevent erosion and limit sediment discharge to the waterway. Check with your local municipality (village or city) or the county zoning department for before commencing land disturbing or vegetation removal activities.
- Any grading, excavating, and land disturbance shall be confined to the minimum area necessary for the construction and may not exceed 10,000 square feet. Check with your local municipality (village or city) or the county zoning department for before commencing land disturbing or vegetation removal activities.
- All equipment used for the project shall be designed and properly sized to minimize the amount of sediment that can escape into the water.
- No waterward extension of the property is permitted other than what is reasonably necessary to conduct the project and protect the existing bank. No soil or similar fill material may be placed in a wetland or below the ordinary high water mark of any navigable waterway.
 - *Filling within a floodplain is subject to local zoning.*
- A deposit of sand, gravel, or stone may **not** be associated with the biological erosion control structure.
 - *Dredging is **not** allowed for the placement or maintenance of any shore erosion control structure.*

VEGETATION/WATERWAY

- Vegetation shall be plant species which are native to the area of Wisconsin where the project is located. Vegetative treatments shall be installed according to the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) [Conservation Practice Standard Code 580](#) (Streambank and Shoreline Protection) or NRCS Engineering Field Handbook Chapter 16.
- Willow wattles, willow posts, brush mattresses, brush layering, fiber roll breakwaters, plant carpets, root wads, and other natural materials shall be installed by hand.
 - *Fiber rolls shall be secured using can and duckbill anchors or hardwood stakes. Spacing between the duckbill anchors shall be 6 feet or less. Spacing between the hardwood stakes shall be 4 feet or less.*
- Mechanical equipment may **not** be operated below the ordinary high watermark or on the bed of a navigable waterway.
- If wave barriers are used, they shall be located within the 3-foot water depth contour or less, marked with reflectors, and may not create an obstruction to navigation. Any wave breaks or wave barriers shall be completely removed within 2 years of the installation date.

Manual Dredging Exemption Checklist



Certain activities in navigable waters are exempt from needing a permit under [Chapter 30](#). Use this checklist to determine if your project qualifies for an exemption.

Your proposed project is eligible if it meets **all** the following conditions:

- **ASNRI/PRF/PNW:** Manual dredging may not be located in an area of special natural resource interest (ASNRI) or within a public right features (PRF) - [Property Lookup for Designated Waterways and Wetlands | Waterway protection | Wisconsin DNR](#).
- **Project Type:** The dredging operation must be “manual dredging”, meaning the removal or disturbance of bottom material by hand or using a hand-held device without the aid of external or auxiliary power.
- **NR Chapter 345 Requirements:** The dredged material will not contain any hazardous substance as defined in [NR345.03\(7\), Wis. Admin. Code](#).
 - *“Hazardous substances” include all chemicals present at concentrations at, or greater than the threshold effect concentration as published in Consensus Based Contaminated Sediment Evaluation (DNR 2001).*
- **Federal and State Threatened and Endangered Species:** This exemption does not address threatened and endangered species. Applicants are required to comply with Wisconsin’s Endangered Species Law (s. 29.604, Wis. Stats.) and the Federal Endangered Species Act. To determine if the project is in compliance, visit the [NHI Public Portal](#), and enter the project area to generate an Endangered Resources (ER) Preliminary Assessment. Read the ER Preliminary Assessment carefully to determine follow-up steps, if needed.

EROSION CONTROL/RIPARIAN

- Erosion control measures shall meet or exceed the [WDNR Technical Standards](#) developed under Subch. V of ch. NR 151, Wis. Admin. Code. Any area where soil is exposed during construction shall be stabilized or revegetated immediately upon reaching final grade using sod, seed and anchored mulch, seed and erosion control mat, or rip rap to prevent erosion and limit sediment discharge to the waterway.
- For each riparian property, the amount of bottom material dredged from a specific waterbody may not exceed 100 square feet in surface area and one foot in depth in a calendar year.
- The applicant is the riparian owner or has permission of the riparian owner to remove bottom material.

WATERWAY

- The dredged material may not be temporarily or permanently placed in a wetland, floodway, or below the ordinary highwater mark of a navigable waterway.
 - [Waterway Jurisdiction Determinations](#)
- Mechanical equipment may not be operated below the ordinary high watermark or on the bed of a navigable waterway.