



LIVINGSTON COUNTY DRAIN COMMISSIONER
2300 E. Grand River, Suite 105, Howell, MI 48843
Phone: 517-546-0040

Web: www.livgov.com/drain E-mail: drain@livgov.com

DO I NEED TO OBTAIN A PERMIT PRIOR TO AN EARTH DISTURBING ACTIVITY?

Under most general applications, if the earth disturbance is greater than 200 square feet, a permit or waiver will be needed from this office. A Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control (SESC) permit or waiver will be issued for each earth disruption and will need to be evaluated by certified and trained staff from the Livingston County Drain Commissioner's office.

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A RESIDENTIAL PERMIT AND A WAIVER?

RESIDENTIAL 'WAIVER of NECESSITY'

A **Waiver** is a form of authorization needed for the construction (or demo) of a single family residence and or garage or a similar-sized earth disturbance, including in-ground and above-ground swimming pools, residential additions, garages, pole barns, sheds, large decks, barns, grading, removing trees, bring in fill, and etc.

- A Residential Waiver of Necessity may be issued if the building site is **NOT** within 500 feet of "surface water" (defined as a lake, pond, stream, swamp, wetland, storm water basins or a county drain).

Requirements for SESC Residential Waivers are:

1. Land Use Permit from the municipality (if issued). Some municipalities do not issue Land Use Permits until authorization has been obtained by this office. Always start at the municipality regarding permits.
2. A site plan is required. (In most cases a site plan can be hand drawn or a mortgage survey.)

The waiver will be issued immediately at the counter if requirements are met and fees are paid.

Upon issuance: The applicant must sign the affidavit as the Responsible Person (which is then notarized by staff) stating that he/she has seen the building site and swears that the work site is not within 500 feet of surface water (as mentioned above).

* * * * *

RESIDENTIAL SOIL EROSION AND SEDIMENTATION CONTROL (SESC) PERMIT

A **Permit** is a form of authorization needed for the construction, (or demo) of a single family residence (of a standard size) and or garage or a similar-sized earth disturbance, including in-ground and above-ground swimming pools, residential additions, garages, pole barns, sheds, large decks, barns, grading, removing trees, bring in fill, and etc.

There are two classifications for residential permits depending on the size of earth disruption. A major permit is issued for sites over 600 square feet of disturbed area and minor permit for those projects less than 600 square feet.

- A Residential Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control Permit will be issued if the building site or disturbed area **IS** within 500 feet of "surface water" (defined as a lake, pond, stream, swamp, wetland, storm water basins or a county drain).

Requirements for SESC Residential Permit are:

1. The SESC residential permit application is required. The application must be signed by both the applicant and the landowner. The application is available at the counter or on the website.
3. Land Use Permit from the municipality (if issued). Some municipalities do not issue Land Use Permits until authorization has been obtained by this office. Always start at the municipality regarding permits. New House construction or pole barn/barn in most cases need an **address** issued by the County GIS.
4. A site plan is required. (In most cases a site plan can be hand drawn or a mortgage survey.)
2. SESC (Soil Erosion and Sediment Control) measures (silt fence, tracking mat, etc.) may need to be installed at the site and **inspected prior** to the issuance of the SESC Permit. Staff will assist applicants, if needed, in determining what SESC measures are needed and where. The SESC Permit will not be issued until all fees are paid and the required SESC measures have been inspected and approved. Site inspections are usually done the next business day once our office is notified that the site is ready for inspection. If an inspection has **failed**, a fee will be required to re-inspect the site and must be paid before permit is issued.

✓ **Please Note: Every project is evaluated by staff and there are exceptions to the general rule.**