

Shoreland Zone

Homeowner's Guide to Clearing or Removal of Vegetation

1. **Shoreland zone is 250' from the High Water Mark (HWM) of a pond or river over 10 acres and 75' from a stream or brook**
2. **Cutting within 100' buffer zone (75' for streams) setback from the normal HWM**
 - a. No cleared openings greater than 250 sq ft in the canopy
 - b. A "well distributed stand of trees" must be maintained:
 - i. At least 24 points within every 25'x 50' rectangular area.
 1. 2-4 inch DBH tree = 1 point
 2. 4-12 inch DBH tree = 2 points
 3. 8-12 inch DBH tree = 4 points
 4. Greater than 12 inches DBH = 8 points
 - ii. Additionally, there must be 5 saplings less than 2' DBH within every 25'x50' area.
 - iii. DBH = Diameter at Breast Height, or diameter measured at 4.5' above ground level
 - c. No more than 40% of the volume of trees 4 inches or greater DBH may be removed in any ten year period
 - d. Pruning the bottom 1/3 of a trees branches is allowed
 - e. Existing vegetation under 3' in height, including leaf litter and forest duff layer, cannot be cut, covered or removed
 - f. A cleared six foot meandering path to access the water is allowed
2. **Cutting beyond the 100' setback from the normal HWM**
 - a. No cleared openings greater than 10,000 sq ft or 25% of the total lot located within the shoreland zone, whichever is greater
 - i. No more than 40% of the volume of trees 4 inches or greater DBH may be removed in any ten year period
 - ii. The total footprint area of all structures, parking lots, and other non-vegetated surface areas cannot exceed 20% of the total lot located within the "shoreland zone".
3. **Dead / Hazardous trees and replanting**
 - a. Unquestionably dead:
 - i. If a tree is unquestionable dead (no leaves, no bark, deep cracks, top broken off, etc.), take pictures, remove the tree properly, and replant as specified below.
 - ii. If a tree is not unquestionably dead, but still viewed as "hazardous", have a licensed Maine forester or licensed arborist inspect the tree and submit a letter including:
 1. why they think the tree is hazardous
 2. what it is a hazard to
 3. Their license number
 4. a picture of the tree
 - b. Tree replanting
 - i. If the removal of a dead or hazardous tree violates any of the provisions listed above under Sections (1) or (2), trees will need to be replanted, ideally in the quantity specified below:
 1. For each tree removed between 1-8" DBH, replant one (1) tree
 2. For each tree removed between 8-19" DBH, replant two (2) trees
 3. For each tree removed greater than 20" DBH, replant three (3) trees
 - ii. Trees to be replanted must be;
 1. Of a native species
 2. A minimum of 54 inches tall
 3. Planted within 20' of the stump of the removed tree
 4. Planted no closer than 5' to other living trees

5. Maintained for a minimum of 3 years (replanted if they die) iii.

iii. Replanting plan

1. A tree replanting plan must be submitted to the town office for approval before replanting takes place.

2. The plan must include a map that accurately shows

a. Location of removed tree(s)

b. Location of replacement tree(s)

c. Replacement tree species

d. Distance to the water body or resource.

i. Other things to consider when replanting

ii. Document the replanting by taking pictures of the newly planted trees (if applicable)

iii. For extensive replanting within 75' of a water body, a D.E.P permit may be required. Check with your local office for details For a complete list of the cutting standards, please see section 15(P) of the Shoreland Zoning Ordinance, or contact your local code office.