

## PONDS AND WETLANDS

It is almost impossible to locate or build a pond without encroaching upon a wetland. This sheet is intended to provide you with information about wetlands and the state and federal agencies that have jurisdiction over them.

WETLANDS are lands transitional between terrestrial and aquatic systems where the water table is usually at or near the surface or the land is covered by shallow water. Wetlands must have one or more of the following attributes: (1) at least periodically, the land supports predominantly hydrophytes, (2) the substrate is predominantly undrained hydric soil, or (3) the substrate is nonsoil and is saturated with water or covered by shallow water at some time during the growing season of each year.

Ponds almost always involve wetlands because they are in areas that have one or both of the first two attributes above – you can usually find wetland plants, and because of the location on the landscape, the soils have seasonal high water tables at or near the surface.

WHO has jurisdiction over wetlands?

At the State Level it's the Maine Department of Environmental Protection.

At the Federal Level it's the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

And your Town may have its own wetland protection ordinance.

How are permits obtained?

Call these offices to obtain the applications for permits:

Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)  
Portland Regional Office  
312 Canco Road  
Portland, ME 04103-4278                      Phone (207) 822-6300

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Maine Projects Office  
675 Western Avenue #3                      Phone (207) 623-8367  
Manchester, ME 04351                      Fax (207) 623-8206

It is important to contact these offices early on in the planning stage of your project because the permitting process can take several months.

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