



What do I need to know to comply with the law and protect water quality?

Waterfront Buffer – 0'-50'

- All new primary structures must be set back 50' from the reference line. Towns may have a greater set back – but not a lesser one.
- A 50' waterfront buffer must be maintained. Within the waterfront buffer, tree coverage is managed with a 50'x 50' grid and points system. Cutting is allowed as long as the sum of points for remaining trees and saplings equals 50 points or more per 50'x 50' grid.
- Natural ground cover, including leaf litter, must not be removed. No cutting or removal of vegetation below 3' in height (excluding lawns) is allowed except for a footpath to the water (up to 6' wide) that does not concentrate stormwater or cause erosion.
- Stumps, roots and rocks must remain intact in and on the ground.
- Pesticides and herbicides are prohibited.
- No fertilizer except limestone can be applied within 25' of the reference line.

Natural Woodland Buffer – 0'-150'

- A percentage of the area of the lot not covered by impervious surfaces shall remain in an undisturbed state.
- Strict restrictions apply to the types of fertilizer that can be used.

The Protected Shoreland – 0'-250'

- Impervious surfaces are limited to 20 percent or up to 30 percent with runoff protections.
- New lots must have subdivision approval by DES.
- Strict restrictions apply to the types of fertilizer that can be used.
- All new septic systems are subject to setback requirements of 75', 100' or 125', depending on soils.
- Minimum frontage requirements apply for new lots.

This is a summary of the CSPA's major provisions. Before planning or undertaking any construction, excavation or filling within the protected shoreland, contact the DES Wetlands Bureau at:

(603) 271-2147

www.des.nh.gov/cspa.



More ...

Impervious Surface

Modified surfaces that cannot absorb water, such as roofs, decks, patios, paved and gravel driveways (excluding bedrock).

Non-Conforming Structures

Those structures that do not conform to the provisions of the CSPA. (May be repaired, renovated, or replaced in kind, as long as the repairs or replacements result in no expansion of the footprint.)

Undisturbed State

Native vegetation left to grow without interference.

Grid and Points System

The waterfront buffer is divided into 50'x50' segments. The trees in each segment are given points according to their diameter at 4½' off the ground.

Tree Diameter (at 4½' off the ground)	Number of Points
1" to 6"	1
>6" to 12"	5
12" and larger	10

Fifty points must be maintained in each segment. You may cut trees or saplings as long as the sum of the points of the remaining trees and saplings for that segment is at least 50 points.

If your property has one or more grid segments that did not have 50 points of April 1, 2008, you are not required to plant trees to achieve 50 points. However, you may not cut any existing trees or saplings in those segments.