

.WHEN DO YOU NEED A PERMIT FOR TREATING PONDS?

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The morphology and watershed characteristics of most ponds are particularly conducive to biological productivity. The input of organic material and nutrients from the watershed into a small, shallow, warm and well-illuminated water body stimulates the production of rooted plants and algae. It should be expected that most ponds will have an abundance of plant life. Management of the pond for activities other than fish and wildlife habitat will require continual maintenance of the aquatic plant community. Maintenance controls may take the form of chemical herbicides and/or physical controls such as vegetation harvesting, water agitation or sediment dredging or alteration.

Depending upon pond size, location, ownership and hydrologic circumstances, aquatic vegetation control activities may be regulated by state or local resource management agencies pursuant to the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act and the Public Health Code. Herbicide applications to ponds are regulated based upon pond size, ownership and hydrology. Vegetation harvesting is generally not regulated unless bottom sediments are intentionally altered or disturbed. Aerators and fountains may be regulated depending upon pond size and the placement of physical structures. Pond size and location will determine the need for a permit if the pond's sediments or surrounding soils are dredged or excavated.

The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) regulates most aquatic vegetation control activities requiring a permit. If herbicides or dyes are added to a pond, the Inland Lakes and Wetlands Unit (517-373-8000) should be contacted. The Permit Consolidation Unit (517-373-9244) can assist with information and permit applications for dredging and filling of bottomlands and the placement of structures within a pond. If soils are excavated, the Soil Erosion & Sedimentation Control Unit (517-335-3178) may provide advice but the local county enforcing agency would issue a permit. Information on aquatic vegetation control and/or pond management may be obtained from the DEQ's Inland Lakes and Wetlands Unit, Michigan State University's (MSU) Extension Bulletin Room (517-355-0240) and MSU's Department of Fisheries and Wildlife (Dr. Donald Garling, 517-353-1989 or Mr. Howard Wandell 517-432-1491).