NEW BRUNSWICK EXCAVATION

Driveways & Entrances

Driveway excavation, gravel bases, culverts, curb cuts and highway entrance permits

4 Expert Answers from Dig IQ

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Q1

Curb cut cost for a wider driveway in Fredericton?

Widening a Driveway in Fredericton: Curb Cut Cost and What to Expect

The City of Fredericton charges $125 per metre of curb cut, plus tax, with a minimum of 2 metres. Ask the City whether your project also needs a building permit; its Engineering Division reviews water and sewer services and lot grading at the permit stage.

The excavation side of widening a driveway, meaning removing the old edge, cutting back the base and shaping the new apron, is priced on machine time. A mini excavator with operator runs $65 to $150 per hour; a standard machine runs $150 to $250 per hour. Published price guides read in September 2026 put driveway excavation and base work in the $1,500 to $5,000 range, though few New Brunswick prices are published and machine hours plus trucking and material are the clearest way to read a quote. Granular A base material runs $35 to $55 per cubic metre, and delivery adds $75 to $200 per load.

A few things to sort out before the machine arrives. Info-Excavation, reached through Click Before You Dig, needs 3 working days' notice; that locate is valid until the end date written on the request. NB Power runs its own separate underground locate service and asks for at least five business days' notice; that locate is valid for 60 days from the date on the form and covers only NB Power-owned lines. Private lines run to a garage, shed or any structure the owner or a past owner installed are yours to find and mark before digging starts. If the driveway sits within 30 metres of a watercourse or wetland, measured horizontally from the top of the bank, a provincial Watercourse and Wetland Alteration permit is required before any ground disturbance.

Before hiring, ask the contractor for a WorkSafeNB clearance certificate confirming their account is in good standing. Under the Construction Remedies Act, you must retain 10% of the contract price as a holdback for 60 days after the certificate of substantial performance is signed.

Lay the bids next to each other and check whether each one spells out how rock is priced if the machine hits it, where the spoil and old base material gets trucked, who supplies and places the new granular base, and what clean-up and surface restoration is included before the job is called done.

Q2

How deep should a gravel driveway base be dug in New Brunswick?

How Deep to Dig a Gravel Driveway Base in New Brunswick

We found no New Brunswick standard that sets an excavation depth for a residential gravel driveway, so the depth is a site judgement. What drives it is the condition of the ground under your wheels, and that has to be assessed on the lot itself.

Ask the contractor what they found under the topsoil and how deep they plan to go, and get that in writing with the quote.

On the material side, published price guides read in September 2026 show crushed stone at $40 to $75 per cubic metre and Granular A at $35 to $55 per cubic metre, with delivery running $75 to $200 per load. Driveway excavation and base work as a whole runs $1,500 to $5,000, and gravel for a single-car driveway $400 to $1,200, based on the same guides. Few New Brunswick prices are published separately, so machine time is the best-anchored figure: a mini excavator with operator runs $65 to $150 per hour, and a standard machine with operator $150 to $250 per hour.

Before any machine touches the ground, two separate locate requests are needed. Info-Excavation, reached through Click Before You Dig, requires three working days' notice; that locate is valid until the end date written on the request. NB Power runs its own underground locate service, separate from Info-Excavation, and asks for at least five business days' notice; that locate is valid for 60 days from the date on the form and covers only NB Power-owned lines. Any private lines, such as wiring run to a garage or shed by a past owner, are yours to find and mark before the contractor arrives. If the driveway connects to a municipal street, check with your municipality about a curb cut or culvert permit before work starts; Moncton and Fredericton publish curb cut fees, Saint John has a driveway culvert permit, and other towns may have their own rules.

If the driveway runs within 30 metres of a watercourse or wetland, a Watercourse and Wetland Alteration permit from the province is required before any clearing, grading or machine work begins. That 30 metres is measured horizontally from the top of the bank on the ground, not from a map.

Ask the contractor to show you both locate tickets before the machine starts, and ask them to explain in writing how they plan to handle the subgrade if they find soft or wet material below the topsoil, since that is where unexpected cost can come in. The form on this page reaches excavation contractors in the New Brunswick Construction Network directory.

Q3

How long does a new driveway excavation take in Moncton?

Duration is not something we found published data on for Moncton driveway excavation jobs, and giving you a number of hours or days would be a guess. What we can tell you is that the machine time is the best-published cost figure, and that is what drives both the schedule and the quote: a mini excavator runs $65 to $150 per hour and a standard excavator $150 to $250 per hour, based on published price guides read in September 2026.

Several things shape how long a contractor needs on site. The length and width of the driveway, how much material has to come out, and where the spoil goes all affect machine hours. If rock is encountered, a hydraulic breaker attachment runs $200 to $300 per hour. Access to the site, whether the existing grade needs significant cutting or building up, and how far trucks have to travel to dump spoil are all factors the contractor judges on site.

Before the Machine Arrives in Moncton

Two separate locate requests must go in before any digging. Info-Excavation, reached through Click Before You Dig, needs three working days notice; the locate is valid until the end date written on the request. NB Power runs its own separate underground locate service and asks for at least five business days notice; that locate is valid for 60 days from the date on the form and covers only NB Power-owned lines. Any private lines, such as wiring run to a garage or shed by a past owner, are yours to find and mark before the contractor starts.

If the driveway connects to a City of Moncton street, the City requires a Curb Cut Permit and tenders the curb cutting to its own contractors. Curb cut fees run $48.63 per metre (minimum $188.40 for a cut under four metres) from April 1 to October 31, and $60.78 per metre (minimum $243.11) from November 1 to March 31, all before HST. Ask the City whether your job also needs a building and development permit; Moncton requires those for new construction and additions.

If the driveway runs within 30 metres of a watercourse or wetland, measured horizontally from the top of the bank, a Watercourse and Wetland Alteration permit from the province is required before any ground disturbance. The fee for a single alteration is $25.

A fair written quote for a driveway excavation should spell out the hourly rate and machine type, how rock is priced if it is found, where spoil is hauled and who pays trucking, what base material is included and at what depth, and how the site is left at the end. Ask for a WorkSafeNB clearance certificate before work starts; WorkSafeNB recommends checking that a contractor is registered and in good standing, because a customer can be held responsible for premiums if the contractor is not. Under the Construction Remedies Act, you must retain a holdback of 10% of the contract price for 60 days after substantial performance.

Once the driveway is finished, file the locate tickets from Info-Excavation and NB Power, any City of Moncton permit and curb cut approval, the written quote and final invoice, and any inspection sign-off, because those records are what you reach for if a dispute or a future dig ever puts the work in question.

Q4

Driveway culvert size for a rural lot near Oromocto?

Culvert Size for a Rural Driveway Near Oromocto

We found no published New Brunswick rule for sizing a driveway culvert, so no single diameter can be given for a rural lot. Ask whoever issues your entrance permit what it requires before ordering one. For a driveway onto a provincial highway, the Highway Act requires a permit from the Minister before you build or use a private entrance onto that road.

If the driveway connects to a municipal road, check with the Town of Oromocto's Planning and Compliance office. The Town issues building and development permits and does site inspections; they can tell you whether a culvert permit is needed for a municipal road connection and what sizing or material standard applies. We found no culvert-specific fee or specification in the Town's published information, so a direct call to the Planning and Compliance office is the right first step.

Before any excavation for the culvert trench or driveway base, two separate locate requests are needed. Info-Excavation, reached through Click Before You Dig, requires three working days' notice; the locate is valid until the end date written on your request. NB Power runs its own underground locate service, separate from Info-Excavation, and asks for at least five business days' notice; that locate is valid for 60 days from the date on the locate form and covers only NB Power-owned lines. Private lines, such as power to a garage or outbuilding, are yours to find and mark before the machine moves.

If the driveway or culvert work falls within 30 metres of a watercourse or wetland, a Watercourse and Wetland Alteration permit from the province is required before any clearing, grading or machine work begins. That 30 metres is measured horizontally from the top of the bank in the field, not from a map. The application fee is $25 for a single alteration.

On the excavation cost side, driveway excavation and base work runs roughly $1,500 to $5,000 based on published price guides read in September 2026, with machine time billed at $65 to $150 per hour for a mini-excavator or $150 to $250 per hour for a standard machine. Few New Brunswick-specific prices are published, so a quote built from actual machine hours, trucking and material is more reliable than any single number.

When you get a quote, ask the contractor how they handle rock if they hit it, where the spoil goes, and whether the culvert supply and installation are included or separate line items. Ask for a WorkSafeNB clearance certificate before work starts.

The request form on this site sends your job details to local excavation contractors listed in the New Brunswick Construction Network directory, and those contractors can reply with quotes for the dig and culvert installation.

The one question for the contractor: have you seen the permit conditions for this entrance, and does your price match them?

Disclaimer: This guide is provided for informational purposes only by New Brunswick Excavation. It does not constitute professional advice. Always book your locates, check with your municipality or Regional Service Commission, and follow WorkSafeNB rules before starting any excavation project. Information is current as of November 15, 2026 and may change. Visit **newbrunswickexcavation.com** for the latest answers.