NEW BRUNSWICK EXCAVATION

Lot Clearing & Grading

Clearing trees and stumps, stripping topsoil and grading so water runs away from the house

4 Expert Answers from Dig IQ

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Q1

Does lot clearing need a permit in Quispamsis?

Lot Clearing in Quispamsis: What You Need Before the Machine Arrives

The Town of Quispamsis requires a Site Work Development Permit for the grubbing, clearing or preparation of a lot for development. Ask the Town of Quispamsis whether your clearing counts as preparing the lot for development, and ask at the same time whether a development permit is needed for the intended use of the land.

Beyond the town's permit, a few provincial rules apply regardless of what the municipality says. If any part of the clearing, grading or machine work falls within 30 metres of a watercourse or wetland, you need a Watercourse and Wetland Alteration permit from the province before a single tree comes down or a blade touches the ground. That 30 metres is measured horizontally from the top of the bank in the field, not from a map. The province's Department of Environment and Local Government administers that permit; the fee for a single alteration is $25. A wetland smaller than one hectare that is not connected to a watercourse is exempt from the wetland rule, but the 30-metre watercourse setback still applies.

WorkSafeNB's trench and excavation rules under General Regulation 91-191 bind the employer on site, so the contractor is responsible for those obligations. Your contractor must have the utilities located before digging (a WorkSafeNB rule for employers); ask them to show you both locate tickets. Private lines you or a past owner installed are yours to find and mark.

Here is what needs to happen before the machine arrives:

- Submit a request to Info-Excavation through Click Before You Dig at least three working days ahead. That locate is valid until the end date written on your request.
- Make a separate request to NB Power for their underground locate service at least five business days ahead. NB Power's locate is valid for 60 days from the date on their form, covers only NB Power-owned lines, and NB Power notes those lines can be buried as little as one foot down.
- Mark any private lines, drains or buried cables that you or a past owner installed; NB Power says those are the owner's to have checked.
- If a gas line or power line is ever struck during work, stop immediately, get everyone away from the area, and call emergency services from a safe distance.

On the cost side, lot clearing is priced mainly on machine time. A mini excavator with operator runs $65 to $150 per hour; a standard excavator with operator runs $150 to $250 per hour, based on published price guides read in September 2026. Few New Brunswick-specific clearing prices are published, so machine hours plus trucking and haul-away is the most reliable way to compare quotes. Ask the contractor where the material goes and who pays

for disposal, because that can move the total considerably.

Before the machine shows up, confirm that your two locates are booked, that the Town of Quispamsis has answered your permit question in writing, and that you have checked the 30-metre WAWA rule for any water on or near the property. If you want to hear from local contractors who do this work, the request form on this page forwards your details to excavators listed in the New Brunswick Construction Network directory.

Q2

Topsoil stripping and stockpiling on a Riverview build?

Topsoil Stripping and Stockpiling in Riverview

Published price guides read in September 2026 show excavator rates of $65 to $150 per hour for a mini and $150 to $250 per hour for a standard machine; few New Brunswick prices are published beyond machine time, so a quote for stripping and stockpiling is built from those hourly figures plus any trucking and disposal costs. The scope of your lot, the depth of topsoil, and whether the stripped material stays on site or leaves will move the final number considerably.

A few things shape what this work actually costs. Topsoil depth varies across a lot and is judged on site, not from any public data. If the machine hits rock close to the surface, the contractor may need a hydraulic breaker, which runs $200 to $300 per hour and sometimes higher for larger machines. If the stripped material cannot be stockpiled on the lot and must be hauled away, trucking distance and tipping fees add to the bill. If clean fill is needed later for backfill or grading, crushed stone runs $40 to $75 per cubic metre and Granular A $35 to $55 per cubic metre, with delivery $75 to $200 per load, and those costs belong in the quote from the start.

On the permit side, Plan 360, the Southeast Regional Service Commission, issues building permits for Riverview, and a permit may be required before construction work begins. Ask Plan 360 directly whether your stripping and site preparation work triggers a permit requirement before the machine arrives. If any part of the lot is within 30 metres of a watercourse or wetland, measured horizontally from the top of the bank in the field, operating heavy machinery and disturbing the ground requires a Watercourse and Wetland Alteration permit from the province before work starts; the fee for a single alteration is $25. For locates, the contractor has a duty under WorkSafeNB's General Regulation 91-191 to determine the location of underground utilities before digging. Ask the contractor to show you both the Info-Excavation ticket, requested at least three working days ahead and valid until the end date written on the request, and the NB Power locate ticket, which is a separate request made at least five business days ahead and valid for 60 days from the date on that form. NB Power's locate covers only NB Power-owned

lines; any private lines run to a garage, shed or other structure are the owner's to find and mark before the machine moves.

When reviewing a quote, check that it spells out where the stripped topsoil goes, how rock is priced if it is encountered, what trucking is included, and whether backfill material is in scope or a separate line. Under the Construction Remedies Act you must retain a holdback of 10% of the contract price for 60 days after substantial performance. Ask for a WorkSafeNB clearance certificate before work starts; if the contractor has no workers and coverage is optional for them, ask about their insurance directly.

Local excavation contractors listed in the New Brunswick Construction Network directory can receive your request through the form on this page.

Before you commit to a price, ask the contractor exactly how they will charge if the machine hits rock and how far the spoil is going, because those two lines are where a stripping quote can grow.

Q3

Regrade the yard first, then landscape, in Dieppe?

Regrading Before Landscaping in Dieppe

Regrading comes before landscaping, and planting and landscape design are a separate trade; this answer covers the excavation part. Few New Brunswick grading prices are published, so machine time is the benchmark in price guides read in September 2026: a mini excavator with operator runs $65 to $150 per hour and a standard excavator with operator runs $150 to $250 per hour, and a grading job is quoted from machine hours plus trucking and material.

What moves the price is the volume of material to move, how far the spoil travels, whether fill needs to be brought in or hauled away, how much of the lot is being touched, and whether any buried obstacles turn up once the machine starts. Access to the yard matters too: a tight gate or a narrow side passage limits which machine can get in. If any part of the yard sits within 30 metres of a watercourse or wetland, measured horizontally from the top of the bank, the province requires a Watercourse and Wetland Alteration permit before any machine work, clearing or fill placement begins. That permit is issued by the Department of Environment and Local Government; the fee is $25 for a single alteration. No machine should move within that zone without it.

For Dieppe, we found no excavation-specific grading or lot-alteration rule in the City's published materials. Check with the City of Dieppe directly to confirm whether a building or development permit is needed for your scope of

work before anything starts. On locates: before any digging, the contractor should have two separate locate requests in hand. Info-Excavation, reached through Click Before You Dig, needs three working days' notice, and 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 NB Power form and covers only NB Power-owned lines. Any private lines, drainage or buried tanks that a past owner installed are yours to find and mark before the machine arrives.

When you get a quote, make sure it spells out:

- How rock is priced if it is encountered (hourly rate for a hydraulic breaker runs $200 to $300 per hour, and that is a separate line)
- Where spoil goes and who pays trucking
- Whether fill or granular material is included or quoted separately
- What clean-up and final grade tolerances look like
- The WorkSafeNB clearance certificate for the contractor's account

Under the Construction Remedies Act, you must retain a holdback of 10% of the contract price for 60 days after substantial performance is certified or the contract is completed, abandoned or terminated. Ask your insurer whether your policy covers damage during the work.
Keep the locate records, any permit or WAWA approval, and the written quote and invoice together once the job is done. The form on this page reaches excavation contractors listed in the New Brunswick Construction Network directory, who can reply with quotes.

Q4

Clearing a treed lot near Hampton for a garage?

Lot Clearing Near Hampton for a Garage

Published price guides read in September 2026 show few New Brunswick figures for lot clearing by the acre; machine time is the best-published number, with a mini excavator and operator running $65 to $150 per hour and a standard excavator and operator running $150 to $250 per hour. A clearing job is priced from those machine hours plus trucking, stump disposal and any grading that follows, so ask for a breakdown of each piece rather than a single lump sum.

Several things move the cost on a treed lot near Hampton. Tree size and density matter, and stump removal adds machine time. Haul distance to a disposal site affects trucking cost. If the cleared area needs grading to prepare a pad for the garage, that is additional machine time. And if the contractor hits rock during grubbing, a hydraulic breaker on the excavator runs $200 to $300 per hour, which is a different rate from standard digging; make sure the quote says how rock is priced if it is found.

Before any machine moves, two locate requests go out, and they are separate. 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 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. Private lines, drains or buried cables that a past owner installed are yours to find and mark before the machine arrives.

Check whether your lot sits within 30 metres of a watercourse or wetland. The province's Watercourse and Wetland Alteration permit, issued by the Department of Environment and Local Government, is required before operating heavy machinery, disturbing ground or clearing trees within that 30-metre zone, measured horizontally from the top of the bank on the ground, not from a map. The permit fee is $25 for a single alteration. No clearing or grubbing in that zone before the permit is in hand.

For the garage itself, we found no Hampton rule specific to excavation, so check with the Town of Hampton or your Regional Service Commission on whether a development permit or building permit is required before clearing and construction begin. A building permit for a garage may be exempt if the structure is 55 square metres or less and not intended for overnight accommodation under Regulation 2021-2, but local by-laws can still require a development permit, so confirm before you start.

Ask the contractor for a WorkSafeNB clearance certificate before signing, and hold back 10% of the contract price as required under the Construction Remedies Act, kept for 60 days after substantial performance.

Before you sign a clearing contract, ask the contractor exactly where the trees, stumps and brush will go and whether that disposal cost is included in the quote or billed separately.

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.