NEW BRUNSWICK EXCAVATION

Permits & Inspections

Building, development, site-work and connection permits by town, and the footing inspection before backfill

4 Expert Answers from Dig IQ

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Q1

Who inspects my new foundation in Rothesay?

Who Inspects Your New Foundation in Rothesay

The Town of Rothesay issues building and development permits, and its building inspector enforces the National Building Code of Canada 2020. Ask the Town who carries out the required foundation inspection.

Under Regulation 2021-2 of the Building Code Administration Act, at least one inspection must happen on completion of the footings and foundations, before any backfilling begins. That sequence matters: the excavation contractor cannot backfill against your new foundation walls until the inspection is done and cleared. Ask the Town of Rothesay directly how to book that inspection and what notice they need, because the timing affects when your excavator can return to backfill.

Before the machine arrives, two locate requests are needed, and they are separate. Info-Excavation, reached through Click Before You Dig, requires at least three working days notice; that 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 underground power lines. NB Power says wiring a past owner ran to a garage, shed or other structure is the owner's to have checked; those private lines are yours to find and mark before digging starts.

Under Regulation 2021-2, before starting you or your contractor must give the Town written notice of the start date and the names of the constructors, engineers, designers and any inspection or testing agencies involved. Check with the Town of Rothesay on exactly how they want that notice submitted.

A few things worth confirming with your contractor before work begins:

- That they will pull both locate tickets, Info-Excavation and NB Power, and can show you both before the machine moves.
- How rock is priced if the dig hits it, since hydraulic breaking runs $200 to $300 per hour on top of machine time.
- Where the spoil goes and whether trucking is included in the quote.
- That backfill will not start until after the foundation inspection.
- Ask for a WorkSafeNB clearance certificate to confirm the contractor is registered and in good standing.

Under the Construction Remedies Act, you must retain a holdback of 10% of the contract price for 60 days after the certificate of substantial performance is signed or the contract is otherwise completed, abandoned or terminated. Get legal advice if you have questions about how that applies to your contract.

Settle one thing in writing: who is responsible for locating and marking any private lines on the lot, and what their procedure is if the machine strikes something that was not on any locate ticket.

Q2

Grading plan needed for a building permit in Fredericton?

Grading Plan and Fredericton Building Permits

The City of Fredericton requires a building permit before a new building, an addition or significant alterations, and its Engineering Division reviews lot grading as part of that permit process. Whether your specific project needs a formal grading plan submitted with the application is something to confirm directly with the City, because the requirement depends on the scope of work. Ask the building department what grading documentation they need before you draw anything up.

What the City's Engineering Division looks at on the grading side includes lot grading alongside water and sewer services and well field protection. That review happens at the permit stage, so the grading information needs to be in order before work starts, not after. If your project involves a new water or sewer service, the City's Water and Sewer Division installs those services, and a site servicing plan goes in with the building permit application. The City bills the customer once the work is completed.

A few rules shape the excavation side of any graded lot. Under Regulation 2021-2 of the Building Code Administration Act, at least one inspection must happen on completion of the footings and foundations before any backfilling begins. That inspection is booked through the local building department. Do not let a contractor backfill against a new foundation until that inspection is done. Regulation 2021-2 also requires the owner or their agent to give the City written notice of the start date and the names of the constructors, engineers, designers and inspection or testing agencies before work begins.

Before any machine touches the ground, two separate locate requests are needed. Info-Excavation, reached through Click Before You Dig, requires at least 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, which requires at least five business days' notice and is valid for 60 days from the date on the locate form. NB Power's service only checks for NB Power-owned lines, and NB Power notes its lines can be buried as little as one foot underground. Any private lines, drains or tanks installed by the owner or a past owner are the owner's responsibility to find and mark before the machine arrives.

If your lot is within 30 metres of a watercourse or wetland, measured horizontally from the top of the bank, grading or machine work in that zone requires a Watercourse and Wetland Alteration permit from the province before anything starts. The application fee is $25 for a single alteration.

Before you sign a contract with an excavation contractor, ask them to explain in plain terms who is responsible for marking private lines on your lot, and what their process is if the machine strikes something that was not on any locate ticket.

Q3

What notice do I give before starting a new foundation in Oromocto?

Starting a New Foundation in Oromocto: What Notice You Need

Before any machine touches the ground, Regulation 2021-2 under the Building Code Administration Act requires the owner or their agent to give the Town of Oromocto written notice of the start date and the names of the constructors, engineers, designers and any inspection or testing agencies. That notice goes in before construction begins, not on the day the excavator arrives.

You will also need a building permit from the Town of Oromocto's Planning and Compliance office before work starts. Ask that office whether a development permit is also required for your lot, and confirm exactly how to book the footing and foundation inspection, because Regulation 2021-2 requires at least one inspection on completion of the footings and foundations before any backfilling begins. Backfill cannot go against a new foundation until that inspection is done and cleared through the local building department.

On the locate side, Info-Excavation, reached through Click Before You Dig, requires three working days' notice before digging; that request is valid until the end date written on it. 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 locate form and covers only NB Power-owned underground power lines. Any private lines, such as wiring run to a garage or outbuilding by a past owner, are yours to find and mark. Ask the contractor to show you both locate tickets before the machine moves. If your lot is within 30 metres of a watercourse or wetland, measured horizontally from the top of the bank, you need a Watercourse and Wetland Alteration permit from the province before any digging, clearing or machine work begins.

WorkSafeNB's General Regulation 91-191 binds the excavation contractor as the employer. A trench 1.2 m (about 4 ft) or deeper that workers enter must be shored, sloped or benched, or cut in solid rock, and shoring must be engineer-certified. Excavated material must be kept at least 1.2 m from the edge. We found no provincial

excavation-contractor licence, so ask the contractor for a WorkSafeNB clearance certificate confirming they are in good standing with their workers' compensation account. Under the Construction Remedies Act, you must retain a holdback of 10% of the contract price for 60 days after the certificate of substantial performance is signed or the declaration is made.

Once the bids are in, check whether each one spells out how rock is priced if the machine hits it, where the spoil is trucked and who pays the haul distance, when backfill happens relative to the inspection, and what clean-up and surface restoration is included, because those four items are where quotes that look equal on the headline number can end up far apart in the final invoice.

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

Q4

When is a permit needed to tap a water main in Riverview?

Tapping a Water Main in Riverview

For Riverview, planning and building permits flow through Plan 360, the Southeast Regional Service Commission. The Town of Riverview says a permit may be required to tap into water and sewer mains and update connections; we found no published conditions or fees. Before any work begins, contact Plan 360 directly to confirm whether a permit is needed for your connection and what the application requires.

A few things to sort out before a machine moves:

- **Locates first.** Info-Excavation (Click Before You Dig) needs at least three working days' notice; the locate is valid until the end date written on your request. NB Power runs its own separate underground locate service and asks for at least five business days; that locate covers only NB Power-owned lines and is valid for 60 days from the date on the locate form. Private lines, including anything a past owner ran to a garage, shed or outbuilding, are yours to find and mark. Whether Info-Excavation covers municipal water and sewer lines in Riverview is worth confirming with Plan 360 directly.
- **WAWA.** If the trench runs within 30 metres of a watercourse or wetland, a Watercourse and Wetland Alteration permit from the province is required before any ground disturbance.
- **Trench safety.** WorkSafeNB's General Regulation 91-191 requires that any trench 1.2 m (about 4 ft) or deeper that workers enter be shored, sloped or benched, or cut in solid rock, and shoring must be engineer-certified. Excavated material stays at least 1.2 m from the edge.

If the work involves a new building or addition, Regulation 2021-2 under the Building Code Administration Act requires a footing and foundation inspection before any backfilling begins. Ask Plan 360 how that inspection is booked.

A fair quote for this kind of work should spell out machine time (a mini excavator runs roughly $65 to $150 per hour; a standard machine $150 to $250 per hour), trucking and spoil disposal, backfill material, and any road-cut or reinstatement work. Ask the contractor how rock is priced if it is encountered, since a hydraulic breaker adds $200 to $300 per hour. Ask for a WorkSafeNB clearance certificate before work starts, and hold back 10% of the contract price for 60 days after substantial performance, as the Construction Remedies Act sets out.

When the work wraps up, hold on to the locate records, any permit and inspection sign-off from Plan 360, and the written quote and invoice together in one place in case a question about the work comes up later.

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.