

Manual Dredging Exemption Checklist



Certain activities in navigable waters are exempt from needing a permit under [Chapter 30](#). Use this checklist to determine if your project qualifies for an exemption.

Your proposed project is eligible if it meets **all** the following conditions:

- **ASNRI/PRF/PNW:** Manual dredging may not be located in an area of special natural resource interest (ASNRI) or within a public right features (PRF) - [Property Lookup for Designated Waterways and Wetlands | Waterway protection | Wisconsin DNR](#).
- **Project Type:** The dredging operation must be “manual dredging”, meaning the removal or disturbance of bottom material by hand or using a hand-held device without the aid of external or auxiliary power.
- **NR Chapter 345 Requirements:** The dredged material will not contain any hazardous substance as defined in [NR345.03\(7\), Wis. Admin. Code](#).
 - *“Hazardous substances” include all chemicals present at concentrations at, or greater than the threshold effect concentration as published in Consensus Based Contaminated Sediment Evaluation (DNR 2001).*
- **Federal and State Threatened and Endangered Species:** This exemption does not address threatened and endangered species. Applicants are required to comply with Wisconsin’s Endangered Species Law (s. 29.604, Wis. Stats.) and the Federal Endangered Species Act. To determine if the project is in compliance, visit the [NHI Public Portal](#), and enter the project area to generate an Endangered Resources (ER) Preliminary Assessment. Read the ER Preliminary Assessment carefully to determine follow-up steps, if needed.

EROSION CONTROL/RIPARIAN

- Erosion control measures shall meet or exceed the [WDNR Technical Standards](#) developed under Subch. V of ch. NR 151, Wis. Admin. Code. Any area where soil is exposed during construction shall be stabilized or revegetated immediately upon reaching final grade using sod, seed and anchored mulch, seed and erosion control mat, or rip rap to prevent erosion and limit sediment discharge to the waterway.
- For each riparian property, the amount of bottom material dredged from a specific waterbody may not exceed 100 square feet in surface area and one foot in depth in a calendar year.
- The applicant is the riparian owner or has permission of the riparian owner to remove bottom material.

WATERWAY

- The dredged material may not be temporarily or permanently placed in a wetland, floodway, or below the ordinary highwater mark of a navigable waterway.
 - [Waterway Jurisdiction Determinations](#)
- Mechanical equipment may not be operated below the ordinary high watermark or on the bed of a navigable waterway.