

- **Do I need a permit to temporarily store material on my property for future use somewhere else?**

Stockpiling of any granular construction material in excess of 5,000 cubic yards on any site requires a grading permit. This includes, but is not limited to, soil, sand and crushed rock.



- **How do I determine cubic yards?**

You determine this figure by multiplying the length of an area by the width, and by the depth, all in feet. Take this resulting amount and divide by 27. This will give you cubic yards.

- **Is there anything else I need to be concerned with while I am grading or before I start?**

The purpose of our grading and soil erosion control Code requirements is to help eliminate the loss of soil from construction activities into drainage facilities and bodies of water, as well as to ensure that existing drainage patterns are not changed to the point of potentially causing damage to property. All downstream sides of your work area may need to be protected with a silt barrier such as silt fence or filter socks. Consult with the Engineering staff at the Permit and Development Center.

Also, be sure to have located any utilities (electric, gas, phone, sewer etc.) within an area to be excavated. There is a free service called Iowa One Call 1-800-292-8989 that will flag or spray paint the location of any known buried utilities on your lot. If any of these are present in this area, contact the utility and let them know your intentions. The depth of soil to be maintained over some of these utilities is important for safety reasons. If there are any utilities in the area, and they have approved your proposed work, use caution in case you might encounter the utilities while digging.

How do I apply for a Grading Permit

- A blank application can be acquired at the customer service counter at the Permit Center, off the city web page www.dmgov.org and click on Forms at the top of the page, or engineering personnel at the Permit Center can e-mail or mail you an application.
- Submit the completed application to the cashier at the Permit Center and have them notarize the form if you have not already done so.
- Pay the required fee, which will typically be \$130 for most residential lots.
- Be sure the cashier gives you a copy and a receipt.
- You can work on your lot as soon as an engineering staff member reviews the application, approves the proposal, and issues the permit.

- Do I need a grading permit to do some grading on my lot?

Probably not, but if you plan to excavate or disturb an area of 500 square feet (that's only 25' x 20') or more within a flood plain, or within 100 feet of a body of water or recognized drainageway, you will need to purchase a permit. If a permit is required, the City will review your proposal and determine if the work is allowed, or if any changes are needed.



- Do I need a permit to fill an area on my property for a future building pad or to make it more usable?

Any fill of dirt, stone, brick, concrete, soil, or similar material covering a cumulative area larger than 2,500 square feet requires a grading permit.



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Revised: January 2009

**CITY OF DES MOINES
PERMIT AND
DEVELOPMENT CENTER**



Residential

Grading

Requirements



**Community Development
Department**

Permit and Development Center

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