When and where is an earthmoving permit required?

The following activities require an earthmoving permit within the unincorporated areas of Sarasota County:

• Filling (including constructing a foundation pad without a building permit).
• Excavating ponds, lakes, borrow pits or retention areas.
• Constructing berms (or mounds).
• Burying debris.
• Hauling more than 100,000 cubic yards of clean earthen fill from one construction site to another.
• Stockpiling material from an off-site source.
• Stockpiling material generated on-site beyond six months.

What earthmoving activities could be exempted?

The following are some exemptions that do not require an earthmoving permit; however, some exemptions require review and written approval from Resource Protection. For more criteria, please refer to Chapter 54, Article XII, Sarasota County Code.

• Filling with stockpiling or excavating less than 100 cubic yards of clean earthen fill or less than 500 cubic yards on a parcel greater than 5 acres in size.
• Hauling less than 100,000 cubic yards of excess clean earthen fill from a County approved construction site to another construction site.
• Installing and maintaining public and private utilities.
• Creating foundation pads authorized through building permits.
• Maintaining existing drainage ditches, canals and ponds to restore original permitted dimensions and elevations.
• Maintaining private roadways, sidewalks, bikeways and pathways.
• Constructing and maintaining shoreline stabilization features authorized under a permit from the Water and Navigation Control Authority (WNCA).
• Filling temporary excavations (e.g., graves and septic tanks).
• Restoring property to original grade with clean earthen fill following removal of buried debris.
• Hauling spoils from a permitted dredging project to a County landfill or a County approved construction site.
• Landscaping, gardening, mulching and fencing.
• Earthmoving authorized by County approved construction plans.
• Earthmoving associated with maintaining of golf courses.²³⁴
• Earthmoving associated with emergency repair or restoration.³
• Constructing swimming pools and lined landscape ponds.³
• Earthmoving on agricultural lands authorized under an existing permit or exemption granted by the Southwest Florida Water Management District.²³

Q: What fees are required and how long does it take to obtain an earthmoving permit?
A: The table below shows the application fee required for each level of earthmoving permits according to the volume and type of fill removed. Some permits will require submittal of a bond fee. These fees are set by the Board of County Commissioners Resolution No. 2001-238 and include a History Center review fee.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Permit Type</th>
<th>Volume (yd³)</th>
<th>Volume (yd³)</th>
<th>Application Fee</th>
<th>Bond Fee</th>
<th>Approximate Review Period</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General</td>
<td>100 - 1,999</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>$625</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>15 working days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level I</td>
<td>2,000 - 9,999</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>$1,075</td>
<td>$500</td>
<td>30 working days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level II</td>
<td>10,000 - 100,000</td>
<td>1 - 50,000</td>
<td>$1,525</td>
<td>Calculated</td>
<td>&gt; 30 working days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level III</td>
<td>&gt;100,000</td>
<td>&gt;50,000</td>
<td>$3,125</td>
<td>Calculated</td>
<td>&gt; 90 working days</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please note that after-the-fact fees will be assessed at three times the original fee.

Q: How long does it take to obtain an earthmoving permit?
A: Many factors such as project size, completeness of plans, completeness of application, number of revisions, and time necessary to secure other permits, determine the time needed for permit issuance.

Those projects involving less than 2000 cubic yards of earthmoving normally take 15 to 30 days.

Those projects involving earthmoving greater than 2000 cubic yards and less than 100,000 cubic yards generally take 30-45 days.

Those projects involving greater than 100,000 cubic yards require a minimum of 90 days due to the requirement for a public hearing before the Board of County Commissioners.

See the table on the next column for additional information.

Q: What is the general review and permit process?
A: Upon submitting an earthmoving permit application, Resource Protection staff will route the application to the appropriate internal agencies who will provide comments within approximately 15 days.

If the application is deemed complete and is recommended for approval, a permit can be issued.

If the application is deemed incomplete, staff will notify the applicant in writing of the additional information needed. Upon receipt of the information or revised plans, staff again will review the application. Upon satisfactory review, a permit can be issued.

The permit approval is valid for a minimum of one year. Staff will perform periodic site visits for construction observation and code compliance.

Upon completion of all earthmoving, a final inspection will be performed.

Q: Who can perform the earthmoving?
A: Property owners or contractors may perform the work. The Earthmoving Code requires no specific licenses or certifications. All work must conform with the issued permit or exemption and the applicable regulations.

Q: Where do I apply for an earthmoving permit?
A: Earthmoving permit applications are available and may be submitted in person or by mail at the following offices:

North County Permitting Center
1301 Cattlemen Road, Bldg. A
Sarasota, Florida 34232
(941) 861-6770

South County Permitting Center
4000 South Tamiami Trail
Venice, Florida 34293
(941) 861-3029

Contact Resource Protection at (941) 861-6113

For earthmoving activities in the Myakka River Protection Zone a pre-application meeting is required.

Sarasota County protects wetlands and various upland habitats. Earthmoving is not allowed within protected habitats without prior approval by the County.