



Engineering and Environmental Services

Durham County Erosion Control Single-Family Development Requirements

When is a Land Disturbance Permit Required?

Any land disturbing activity within Durham County, including within City limits, greater than 12,000 square feet requires a permit per UDO Section [12.10.2](#). prior to any work beginning on site.

What is considered to be a Land Disturbing Activity?

Any use of land by any person in residential, industrial, educational, institutional or commercial development, and in highway and road construction and maintenance, that results in a change in the natural cover or topography and that may cause or contribute to sedimentation. This includes borrow and waste disposal activity not regulated by the provisions of the Mining Act of 1971 or the Department of Health and Human Resources, Division of Health Services. Land disturbing activities over which the State has exclusive regulatory jurisdiction as provided in NCGS § 74-46 through 74-68, or NCGS § 113A-56 (a) shall not be included in this definition.

Does a septic field need to be included in the limits of disturbance?

Yes. Installation of septic fields requires disturbance of the natural ground, and therefore is required to be considered in the area of land disturbance.

How do I apply for a land disturbance permit?

Submit documents electronically to our [plan submittal portal](#), or mail original documents to our office. A complete application includes a [Financial Responsibility Ownership Form](#) and permit fee. The permit fee can be paid on our website or check made payable to “Durham County” sent to 201 E. Main St, 5th Fl, Durham, NC 27701. If land disturbance is proposed to be greater than 20,000 square feet, signed and sealed erosion control plans and calculations are also required. **A site plan or building permit application must be approved prior to issuance.**

Area of Disturbance (square feet)	Permit Required?	Erosion Control Plan Required?	Fee
< 12,000	No	No	N/A
12,000 – 20,000	Yes	No	Permit Fee = \$275
> 20,000	Yes	Yes	Plan Review Fee = \$100/acre if < one acre, \$125/acre if > one acre Permit Fee = \$275 if < one acre, \$525/acre if > than one acre

201 E Main St. Fifth Floor, Durham, North Carolina 27701

(919) 560-0735 | Fax (919) 560-0740 | [dconc.gov](#)

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