

Building Permit Requirements for Docks

- The addition of any new crib area requires a permit.
- Any “repair” work that takes place on the stringers or cribs, this would include work above and/or below the waterline, requires a building permit.
- A site plan and construction drawings are required, denoting the location of the dock on the property and the sizing of the structural members (cribs and stringers).
- Swim dock applications require a Schedule 1: Designer Information form.
- **Crib docks** - Any structural work (crib or stringer repair/replacement) to a dock supporting a structure ie: boat port or boat house requires a permit. Structural members (cribs or stringers) are to be sized by a P. Eng or designer qualified with a structural BCIN in accordance with the bearing capacity of the lake bed and any anticipated loads on the structure ie: snow, hoists etc.
- **Steel docks** – Steel Docks designed to support an upper structure shall be designed and/or reviewed by a P. Eng in accordance with the bearing capacity of the lake bed and any anticipated loads on the structure ie: snow, hoists etc.
- Replacement of decking only does not require a permit.
- A Copy of the required MNRF Work Permit, Land Use Permit or a Letter of Authorization is required. See MNRF requirements below.

MNRF Requirements

Docks and single-storey boathouses that have 15 m² or less in physical contact with shore lands (lakebed) will no longer be reviewed by the MNRF. This includes floating docks, post docks and crib docks that have less than 15 m² in physical contact with shore lands (lakebed). Please refer to [Ontario Regulation 239/13](#)

A work permit will still be required for certain activities on shore lands, for example, installing cribs with a cumulative area of more than 15 m² in physical contact with shore lands (lakebed).

As of June 1st, 2017, the MNRF no longer issues occupational authority for docks and single-storey boathouses on shore lands (lakebed) that are only for boat storage. Single-storey boathouses with living accommodations, and non-boat storage related uses, for example, saunas, bathrooms, bars, etc., as well as two-storey boathouses, will still require occupational authority from the MNRF for which there is a fee.

Contact the [MNRF psdistrict.mnrf@ontario.ca](mailto:MNRF_psdistrict.mnrf@ontario.ca)

A MNRF Land Use Permit or letter of authorization is required to be submitted with building permit applications.

DFO Requirements

The Fish and Fish Habitat Protection Program ensures compliance with relevant provisions under the *Fisheries Act* and the *Species at Risk Act*. The program reviews proposed works, undertakings and activities that may impact fish and fish habitat.

If your project is taking place in or near water, you're responsible for:

- understanding the impacts your project will likely have on fish and fish habitat
- taking measures to avoid and mitigate impacts to fish and fish habitat
- requesting an authorization from the Minister and abiding by the conditions of your authorization when it is not possible to avoid and mitigate project impacts on fish and fish habitat
- ensuring compliance with all statutory instruments, including federal and provincial legislations

Submit your project plans for review to identify the potential risks of the project to the conservation and protection of fish and fish habitat and they will work with you to ensure that impacts are managed in the best way possible.

[Request a review of your project near water <https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/pnw-ppe/reviews-revues/request-review-demande-d-examen-004-eng.html>](https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/pnw-ppe/reviews-revues/request-review-demande-d-examen-004-eng.html)

Navigation Protection Program

The Navigation Protection Program is responsible for the administration of the Navigation Protection Act, which prohibits the construction or placement of any “works” in a navigable waterway listed in the Schedule to the Act that may interfere with the public right to navigation without first obtaining authorization from this office.

The Navigation Protection program also maintains responsibility for provisions of the Private Buoy Regulations and Receiver of Wreck under the Canada Shipping Act.

Lakes found on the schedule to the Act therefore require a Notice of Work, and all required supporting documentation must be submitted for review, and approval received prior to the commencement of any construction or installation.

[Notice of Work form and guidance material <https://tc.canada.ca/en/programs/navigation-protection-program/works-navigable-waters-canada>](https://tc.canada.ca/en/programs/navigation-protection-program/works-navigable-waters-canada)