You Need a Permit When...

You can’t work from the bank and have to enter the stream with equipment.

Planning to work in a protected stream, such as Outstanding State Resource Waters.

Excavating gravel for commercial sale.

Installing bank stabilization structures.

Building culverts, bridges and low water crossings in the stream.

Still not sure if you need a permit? Contact KDOW to find out!

To apply for a permit, learn more about regulations for stream obstruction removal, learn about the health and/or protection status of your stream visit:
water.ky.gov/waterquality

For More Information Contact:
Kentucky Division of Water
300 Sower Blvd.
Frankfort, KY 40601
Email: water@ky.gov
Phone: 502-564-3410

When we straighten, armor, and remove vegetation from streams, we increase the amount of water entering the creek and the speed at which it travels, commonly resulting in damaging high waters and accelerating land loss due to erosion.

By protecting the plant communities near streams through wise stream management practices we can ensure good water quality, reduce flooding likelihood, and keep our property from washing away.

Riparian Buffers

Watershed Friendly
STREAM MAINTENANCE
Guidelines for Debris Removal from Kentucky Waterways

Why Care About Healthy Streams?
A healthy stream ecosystem is the best defense against flooding and erosion problems on your property.

Healthy Streams = Healthy Communities

Plant roots in the riparian buffer help anchor the sediment and prevent erosion

Rough stream bottoms and meanders help dissipate energy and slow down flood waters

Fallen trees are important habitat and food for aquatic life
We All Live Downstream
That means that the water quality available to us is determined by our upstream neighbors.

Follow These Guidelines and No Permits Are Required

- Gravel mined and used on your property does not require a permit.
- Reseed and mulch your work area once your project is complete to prevent sediment from washing into the stream.
- Store fuel, debris, and mined gravel in an upland site, outside the floodplain.
- Remove gravel from the bank or a nearby bridge.
- Only excavate the top of the gravel bar, 12" above the water’s surface.
- Use sediment control measures like silt fences to prevent soils from entering the creek.
- Avoid working in the stream during fish spawning season (April 15- June 15).
- Avoid using the stream as a road. Access the creek from the bank.
- Minimize disturbance of the Riparian Zone to prevent erosion and property loss.
- Gravel mined and used on your property does not require a permit.

MORE TIPS
Try to limit gravel removal to one excavation per year.
Gravel excavation should be conducted only during low-flow, preferably in late summer or fall.

Images courtesy of IAN.umces.edu/symbols