

APPLYING FOR A BUILDING PERMIT?

Please Read This Important Legal Information

The Massachusetts Watershed Protection Act (WsPA or “the Cohen Bill”; 313 CMR* 11.00) was passed by the Massachusetts Legislature in 1992 to help protect the source water supply for over three million people. The WsPA gives the Department of Conservation and Recreation, Division of Water Supply Protection (DCR) jurisdiction over certain activities on critical properties in the Wachusett Reservoir, Ware River, and Quabbin Reservoir watersheds. Your town is partially or entirely in one of these watersheds. The Watershed Protection Act is a separate regulation from the Wetlands Protection Act, which is administered by your local Conservation Commission.

*Code of Massachusetts Regulations

Please Complete the Following Steps to See if You Need to Have DCR Review Your Project

If you are installing any of the following, then the activities are not subject to the Watershed Protection Act and there is no need to contact DCR:

- ***A new roof***
- ***Siding***
- ***Insulation***
- ***New door***
- ***New windows***
- ***Wood/pellet stove***
- ***Interior renovations that do not result in an increase in the number of bedrooms.***

If your project, however, is anything other than those activities, then please follow these three easy steps to make sure you are in compliance with the Watershed Protection Act:

- 1. Locate the Watershed Protection Act map in Town Hall.** The following offices should all have copies of the WsPA maps: Building Inspector, Town Clerk, Conservation Commission, Planning Board, and Board of Health. You can also [go to the WsPA web page](#) and select the link for the Data Viewer online map.
- 2. Locate the street and the lot where your activity is proposed.** You may call DCR for assistance if you cannot locate the parcel.
- 3. Is any portion of the lot shaded in red or yellow?** If yes, then the property is subject to jurisdiction of the Watershed Protection Act. Please contact the DCR office listed below.

Please note that it is the land owner’s responsibility to be in compliance with the Watershed Protection Act. You are encouraged to contact DCR if you have any question about your project.

Wachusett Reservoir Watershed: (857) 303-5427

Quabbin Reservoir and Ware River Watersheds: (413) 213-7935

www.mass.gov/dcr/wspa