
ENVIRONMENTAL Fact Sheet



29 Hazen Drive, Concord, New Hampshire 03301 • (603) 271-3503 • www.des.nh.gov

SW-7

2022

Stump and Brush Management

In New Hampshire, discarded stumps and brush are regulated as a type of solid waste. This fact sheet provides an explanation of the regulatory requirements for the various methods of managing stumps, pursuant to the [New Hampshire Solid Waste Rules \(Rules\)](#).

Above-Ground Management

The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) encourages the above-ground management of stumps, including chipping, because it eliminates the use of valuable landfill space and because it produces a reusable product. Shredded material can be used for several purposes, including mulch and biomass fuel.

For this reason, the management of stumps and tree parts by above-ground methods is exempt from the requirement for obtaining a permit under the Rules, provided the activity complies with the universal facility requirements in [Chapter Env-Sw 1000](#) of the Rules and, if combusted, a permit is obtained from the NHDES Air Resources Division and local fire officials, if required.

Chips, shavings and sawdust produced from stumps and other virgin wood are certified by the Rules for distribution and use as fuel, mulch, animal bedding and a bulking agent for composting. See [Env-Sw 1503.09](#). This means that when actively managed for the identified purposes, virgin wood chips, shavings and sawdust are considered a product rather than a waste and are not regulated by the Rules.

Burial/On-Site

When stumps generated from clearing land are buried on the same property, state law exempts the activity from regulation under the Rules, provided that the burial site is at least 75 feet from any drinking water supply and local approval is obtained, if required. See [RSA 149-M:4,XXII](#).

Burial/Off-Site

A permit is required to bury stumps at off-site locations, with the following exception: No permit is required if the burial site is at least 75 feet from any water supply well; at least 25 feet

from any property line; at least 4 feet above the seasonal high groundwater table; the stumps and tree parts are buried in a manner that is protective of the environment, public health and safety; a notation is recorded in the chain of title for the property identifying the burial location, waste types, dates and quantity of waste disposed of on the property; and other requirements. Before burying stumps under this permit exemption, carefully review all of the applicable permit exemption requirements in [Env-Sw 810.09](#).

For more information, contact:

NH Department of Environmental Services
Waste Management Division, Solid Waste Management Bureau
PO Box 95
Concord, NH 03302-0095
[\(603\) 271-2925](tel:6032712925)
solidwasteinfo@des.nh.gov

A paper copy of the Rules may be obtained by contacting the NHDES Public Information Center at the above noted mailing address or [\(603\) 271-8876](tel:6032718876).

Note: This fact sheet is accurate as of July 2022. Statutory or regulatory changes or the availability of additional information after this date may render this information inaccurate or incomplete.