

Chocolay Charter Township

Do I need a grading permit?

You need a grading permit if soil, rock, or mineral matter is cut into, dug, quarried, uncovered, removed, displaced, or relocated, including removal of vegetable cover, excavation, and land balancing and . . .

- Project involves, in one year, an area exceeding 2,000 square feet or more than 1,000 cubic yards of material
- Project will not take more than one year

You do not need a grading permit if . . .

- Agricultural, horticultural, and forestry activities
- Construction of a driveway which does not at any point vary from the surrounding grade by more than one foot
- Normal graveling or grading of a road or driveway
- Project does not involve, in any one year, an area exceeding 2,000 sq ft or more than 1,000 cu yards of material. However you might then need a mining permit for 500 cubic yards or more of material. See info sheet for mining.
- Construction or maintenance of a septic tank or associated drain field
- Activities for which a permit has been issued pursuant to the provisions of Part 91 of the Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control Act, Act 451, PA 1994 (within 500' of a lake or stream or more than 1 acre (43,560 sq ft) of earth changes)

How much does a grading permit cost?

\$10 per acre or fraction of an acre, but not exceeding \$200, plus payment of a performance bond to ensure compliance. The financial security can also be paid into an escrow fund by cash or certified check, or through an irrevocable letter of credit from a Michigan bank.

What information is needed for the grading permit application?

- Information on erosion control and grade stabilization measures
- Possibly topographic maps, soil boring reports, or other technical information, as requested by the Zoning Administrator
- Hours of operation
- Time for completion of operation
- Reclamation plan

Do I need a mining permit?

You need a mining permit if you are removing and/or processing iron ore, copper, gravel, sand, fill dirt, stone, gypsum, peat, topsoil (but not sod production/removal), silver, gold, uranium, and other minerals and . . .

- You are extracting 500 cubic yards of material or more, and the project does not involve a zoning compliance permit (an associated building project) or a grading permit (an area exceeding 2,000 square feet or more than 1,000 cubic yards of material with activity completed in one year). So if your extraction project involves 1,000 cubic yards or more of material and will be complete in one year, you might need a grading permit. If it involves 500 cubic yards or more of material and will take more than one year, you might need a mining permit.

You do not need a mining permit if . . .

- The mining operation was already active and lawful and continued action does not occupy a greater area than originally permitted, except that sand, fill dirt, and/or gravel operations may be enlarged on the same lot as originally permitted according to certain restrictions.
- You extract less than 500 cubic yards of materials one time.
- The site prep is part of a project that receives a zoning compliance permit or grading permit.

How much does a mining permit cost?

\$250

What is the process for obtaining a mining permit?

1. Meet with the Township Zoning Administrator and other interested Township officials. Bring a sketch plan.
2. Fill out an application for a permit.
3. Zoning Administrator shall review the application and submit it to the Planning Commission for consideration within 45 days. If application meets minimum requirements of the Ordinance, a public hearing will be scheduled and held with the Planning Commission.
4. After the public hearing, the Planning Commission will make a recommendation to the Township Board.
5. The Zoning Administrator will submit the application and the recommendation of the Planning Commission to the Township Board for review and a decision.

What information is needed for the mining permit application (see Section 7.1 of the Zoning Ordinance for details)?

- Distance of the operation from adjoining land uses or structures; right-of-way of federal, state, or county roads; public or private well; flood plains; wetlands.
- Site plan
- Hydrologic study
- Operation Plan
- Reclamation Plan