

TEMPORARY WATER PERMITS



**NORTH DAKOTA
STATE WATER COMMISSION**
900 East Boulevard Ave • Bismarck ND

TEMPORARY WATER USE PERMITS

In some cases, a water user only needs access to water for a limited period of time. In those instances, that person should consider a Temporary Water Permit. A Temporary Water Permit is intended for uses that are literally temporary. Temporary water uses may vary in the location where that water is used, or for different purposes, from year to year.

One benefit of a Temporary Water Permit, is that the application process does not take as long as what is required for Conditional Water Permits. However, there is **NO** water right that is associated with a Temporary Water Permit, and there is no guarantee that water will be available at the source every year, or even for the lifespan of the permit. Additionally, the duration of the permit can be for no longer than 12 months, and the permit can be revoked at any time.* Temporary water permits are frequently obtained for uses such as road construction, landscaping, private gardening, etc.

*There may also be additional requirements associated with the granting of a Temporary Water Permit, such as ensuring equipment is Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) free in areas such as the Red River Valley, where zebra mussels have become an issue. Please note that other laws may apply to activities that have the potential to spread ANS. Please see (<http://gf.nd.gov/ans>) for more information.

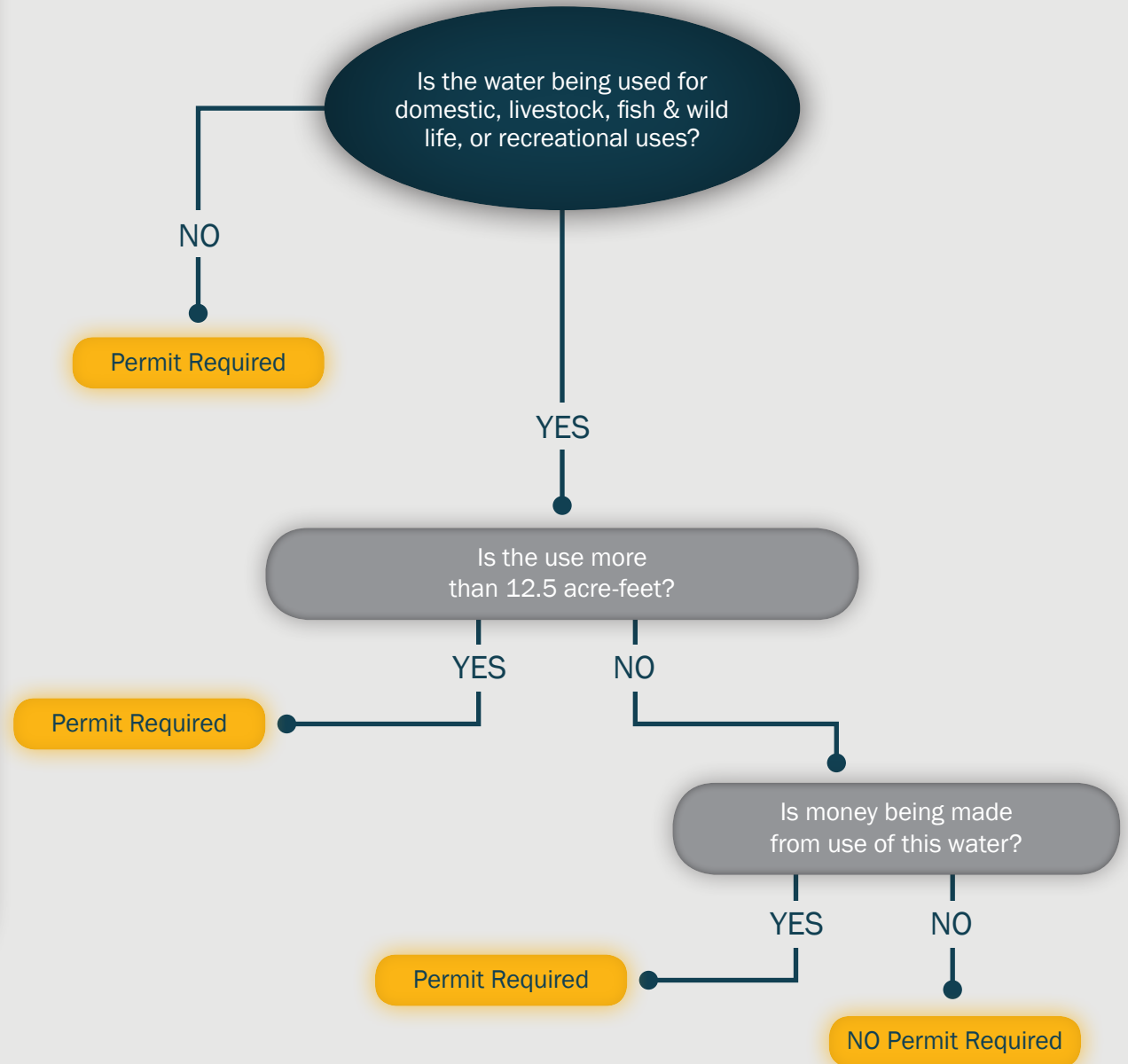
DO I NEED A WATER PERMIT?

Except for Domestic, Livestock, Fish, Wildlife and Recreation uses, all types of water uses must obtain a water permit from the Office of the State Engineer.

Domestic water use is defined by North Dakota Century Code as; *“the use of water by an individual, family unit, or household for personal needs and household purposes including; heating, drinking, washing, sanitary and culinary uses, irrigation of land not exceeding five acres in area for gardens, orchards, lawns, trees, or shrubbery; and for household pets and domestic animals kept for household sustenance and not for sale or commercial use, when the water is supplied by the individual or family unit.”*

When money is made from the use of water, such as watering a garden with the intent to sell the produce, the use of that water is no longer considered a Domestic use, and instead falls under the Irrigation category of water use. However, even for Domestic uses, if the volume of water used is over 12.5 acre-feet (4,073,137 gallons) a water permit is required prior to using that water, regardless of what that intended use is. This means that if a large enough volume of water is used, a water permit is **ALWAYS** required.

Do I Need A Water Permit?



For More Information

For more information, please contact the
Water Appropriation Division:

(701) 328-2754

appropinfo@nd.gov

www.swc.nd.gov

There is additional information
available about Temporary and Conditional
Water Permits at the North Dakota State
Water Commission website.

www.swc.nd.gov/reg_approp/waterpermits

APPLY ONLINE FOR A TEMPORARY WATER PERMIT

[www.secure.swc.nd.gov/permitlink/4dcgi/
TempApplicationForm](http://www.secure.swc.nd.gov/permitlink/4dcgi/TempApplicationForm)

APPLICATION FORM ONLINE TEMPORARY WATER PERMIT

[www.swc.nd.gov/pdfs/temp_water_
permit_sfn60158.pdf](http://www.swc.nd.gov/pdfs/temp_water_permit_sfn60158.pdf)