

WHAT IS THE GRADING SEASON?

The grading season is the time of year when grading and earthmoving activities associated with land improvements are permitted throughout the County. During the summer months the probability of extended precipitation is significantly low and earthwork and grading is allowed throughout the county.

WHEN IS THE GRADING SEASON?

The Grading Season is defined by the months between April 1st and October 15th (or April 1st through September 1st within a sensitive domestic water supply drainage) and the remaining months are referred to as the Winter Shutdown period. County staff can assist you in determining the location of your property with respect to defined sensitive water supply drainage areas.

WHERE IS GRADING NOT PERMITTED DURING THE WINTER SHUTDOWN?

The Winter Shutdown period applies to all grading and earthmoving activities on slopes greater than five percent (5%) within the county and on properties within a sensitive domestic water supply watershed.

WHAT CAN I DO DURING THE WINTER SHUTDOWN PERIOD?

During the winter shutdown period property owners must winterize their construction sites and maintain an appropriate level of erosion control to protect adjacent properties and stormwater conveyance ways from receiving sediment or other pollutants mobilized by rain storms.

No earthwork should be undertaken on slopes greater than 5% during the winter shutdown period without first obtaining an extension to the grading season.

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE GRADING SEASON?

The purpose and intent of these regulations is to preserve the natural resources of the County of Napa in addition to protecting the health and safety of the public. Further, the grading deadlines are to protect county lands from excessive soil loss which if unprotected could threaten local water quality and quantity and lead ultimately to loss of aquatic life and economic productivity.

WHEN WOULD I NEED A GRADING EXTENSION?

Grading Extensions must be requested for any earthwork associated with a valid building or grading permit that is to be completed outside of the defined grading season. This applies to earthwork associated with all civil improvement projects and residential construction, including property re-contouring or disposing of earth spoils.

HOW DO I OBTAIN A GRADING SEASON EXTENSION TO FINISH MY PROJECT?

Grading Extensions should be applied for by the property owner or the property owner's designee. Not all grading extensions can be granted. A successful

applicant will provide specific information relating to the project needing an extension.

Grading Extensions for structural projects shall be requested by providing a letter written to the Director of Planning, Building and Environmental Services (with the following information:

- 1) Project manager's name
Association to project
Contact information
- 2) Property owner's name
County assessor's parcel number
Contact information
- 3) A list of all permit numbers for which the extension is requested.
Site address of project
- 4) Letter shall address reason for grading extension. This letter should explain all actions and site specific info explaining how the project extension will not adversely affect water quality.
- 5) Description of work that will be performed.
- 6) Site map depicting additional erosion control measures to be implemented that will allow the grading activity to continue and list the contact person that can be contacted 24 hours per day 7 days a week.
- 7) Preparation of a weather triggered action plan to be implemented 24 hours prior to predicted rain event.

- 8) Schedule of planned construction activities to occur during the winter shutdown dates.
- 9) Application fee

Napa County Code

18.108.070 Erosion hazard areas—Use requirements

L. Grading Deadline (Winter Shutdown). Grading and earthmoving activities on slopes greater than five percent shall be limited to the period between April 1 and October 15 (or April 1 to September 1 pursuant to subsection (C) of Section 18.108.027 for work on any slopes within sensitive domestic water supply drainages) except that earthmoving or grading activity may occur during the winter shutdown period, providing an agricultural erosion control plan, vineyard replanting program or erosion control measures have been approved by the applicable director which specifically addresses grading and earthmoving activities during the winter shutdown period, and further provided that adequate winterization (temporary) erosion control measures have been installed before other work on the project in accordance with the approved plan or vineyard replanting program pursuant to subsection (A) or (B) of Section 18.108.070, and field checked by the director or designee. The director, in approving plans involving grading or earthmoving activities during the shutdown period, is authorized to condition such approvals in a manner that will ensure that grading and earthmoving activities will not occur during periods of inclement

weather. It shall be the responsibility of the permittee to contact the planning director or designee for a field check at least three working days prior to continuing activity within the “winter shutdown period.” Applications to conduct work during the winter shutdown period shall be submitted to the planning department (for agricultural projects) or the public works department (all other projects) at least two weeks before work is planned to commence. Applications not so submitted will be processed by the county as time allows, and will be required to pay two times the required processing fees in effect at the time of submittal. No work may be conducted in the shutdown period until an application is approved. (Ord. 1259 § 7, 2005; Ord. 1104 § 34, 1996; Ord. 1062 § 6, 1994; Ord. 998 § 1, 1991; Ord. 991 § 1 (part), 1991; prior code § 12454)



**A Tradition of Stewardship
A Commitment to Service**

**GRADING
SEASON
EXTENSION
(Residential and
Commercial Construction)**

GENERAL INFORMATION

**NAPA COUNTY PLANNING, BUILDING
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES**
Engineering Services Division

Information	(707) 253-4417
Fax	(707) 253-4336