



NH Division of Forests and Lands,
PO Box 1856, 172 Pembroke Rd.,
Concord, NH 03302-1856
(603) 271-2217
<http://www.nhdfll.org>

NH Timber Harvesting Law Fact Sheet



UNIVERSITY of NEW HAMPSHIRE
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

Slash Law (RSA 227-J:10)

Slash is the debris left after a timber harvest. These branches, leaves, stems, unmerchantable logs, and stumps may take several years to decompose. Slash represents a fire hazard and, often a messy appearance.

The slash law is intended to reduce fire danger caused by slash and to improve the aesthetics along roads and water bodies.

What does the Law Say?

No logging slash may be left:

- In any river, stream or brook that normally flows throughout the year, or any other standing body of water, public highway, or active railroad bed.
- On the property of another, or in a cemetery
- Within 25 feet of land of another, or fourth order stream*
- Within 50 feet of any great pond, any other standing body of water 10 acres or more in area, public highway, or active railroad bed.
- Within 100 feet of any occupied structure (RSA 635:1, III) including all barns, sheds, and other storage buildings, except a temporary lumber camp.

Slash may not be more than four feet high within 50 to 150 feet of any great pond, standing body of water 10 acres or more in area, or public highway.

See diagram on back of this page

*For a complete listing of 4th order streams call the Forestry Information Center at 1-800-444-8978 or check the listing on pages 33-36 of *Guide to NH Timber Harvesting Laws* available on-line at:
<http://ceinfo.unh.edu/Pubs/ForPubs/gtnhthl.pdf>

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