

Water security means ensuring water services—such as water for drinking and sanitation, the food we grow with water, the fish we catch, and the water used in industry, energy production, transportation and recreation—are sustained. At the same time, water security recognizes that all of these services are reliant upon healthy and productive ecosystems.

United Nations Environment Programme  
quoted in the *25 Year Saskatchewan Water Security Plan*

# Introduction to Water Regulations



The following table outlines water regulations in Saskatchewan. Check the left hand column to find your activity or business. The table also includes examples of activities and lists the approvals, permits, or licenses you may need.

If you are...	For example...	Then you may need...	Things to know...
Draining water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Draining water off a legal parcel of land</li><li>Draining into a Conservation and Development Area Authority (C&amp;D)</li><li>Deepening, widening or straightening a creek</li><li>Infilling, draining or consolidating sloughs or wetlands</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Drainage Approval</li><li>Aquatic Habitat Protection Permit</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>All drainage needs approval. No existing drainage is grandfathered.</li><li>Qualified Persons are available to help you with the legal and technical work of drainage approvals.</li><li>Please visit <a href="https://wsask.ca/Water-Programs/Agricultural-Drainage/">wsask.ca/Water-Programs/Agricultural-Drainage/</a> for more information and fact sheets about drainage.</li><li>See <a href="https://wsask.ca/Water-Programs/Aquatic-Habitat-Protection/">wsask.ca/Water-Programs/Aquatic-Habitat-Protection/</a> for information about Aquatic Habitat Protection.</li></ul>
Developing near water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Constructing a bridge or culvert across water</li><li>Building a boat launch or marina</li><li>Changing the bank of a lake, river, or creek</li><li>Adding material to the bank, including rock, sand, or gravel</li><li>Removing vegetation in, or near, water</li><li>Channel clearing</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Aquatic Habitat Protection Permit</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>For more information: <a href="https://wsask.ca/Water-Programs/Aquatic-Habitat-Protection/">wsask.ca/Water-Programs/Aquatic-Habitat-Protection</a>.</li><li>See our <i>Shoreline Stabilization Fact Sheet</i> and <i>Beach Creation and Maintenance Fact Sheet</i> at <a href="https://wsask.ca/Water-Programs/Aquatic-Habitat-Protection/">wsask.ca/Water-Programs/Aquatic-Habitat-Protection</a>.</li><li>Our <i>Beaver Dam Removal</i> and <i>Private Temporary or Seasonal Docks and Boat Lifts Fact Sheet</i> explains when you don't need these licenses and/or approvals.</li></ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Building a permanent water intake</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Aquatic Habitat Protection Permit</li><li>Water Rights Licence</li><li>Approval to Construct and Operate Surface Water Works</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Our <i>Domestic Water Use Fact Sheet</i> (FS-315) explains when you don't need a Water Rights License or Approval.</li><li>Our <i>Surface Water Approval Process Fact Sheet</i> (FS-312) and <i>Application for Water Rights License and Approval to Construct and Operate Works under the Water Security Agency Act (RG-103)</i> explains the process and regulatory requirements.</li></ul>
Providing water or wastewater services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Constructing or operating a water or wastewater treatment plant</li><li>Constructing or operating a water distribution system or pipeline</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Water Rights Licence</li><li>Approval to Construct and Operate Surface Water Works or Groundwater Works</li><li>Permit for Construction of Waterworks or Sewage Works</li><li>Permit to Operate a Waterworks</li><li>Permit to Operate a Wastewater Works</li><li>Permit to Operate a Sewage Works</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Find the following design standards, fact sheets and application forms at <a href="https://saskH2O.ca/foroperators.asp">saskH2O.ca/foroperators.asp</a>.</li><li>Application for Water Rights Licence and Approval to Construct and Operate Works under the Water Security Agency Act (RG-103) explains the process and regulatory requirements.</li><li>See our <i>Sewage Works Design Standard - EPB 503</i> for information related to the requirements for constructing sewage works or wastewater works infrastructure.</li><li>See our <i>Waterworks Design Standard - EPB 501</i> for information related to the requirements for constructing drinking water infrastructure.</li></ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Septic hauling</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Permit to Transport and Dispose of Liquid Domestic Sewage</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>See our Fact Sheet EPB 349 <i>Liquid Domestic Waste Disposal</i> at <a href="https://saskh20.ca">saskh20.ca</a>.</li></ul>
Using pesticides or chemicals in or near water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Aquatic vegetation control in lakes, rivers, creeks, or canals</li><li>Right of way vegetation control</li><li>Forestry pest control</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Permit to Apply a Pesticide and/or Chemical in or near Surface Water</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>See our document EPB 47 <i>A Guide to Aquatic Nuisances and Their Control</i> at <a href="https://saskh20.ca">saskh20.ca</a>.</li></ul>

If you are...	For example...	Then you may need...	Things to know...
<b>Using, taking, storing, or hauling water</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Using water from a lake, river or creek for industry, agriculture, municipalities, multi-user projects, etc.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Water Rights License</li> <li>Approval to Construct and Operate Surface Water Works</li> <li>Aquatic Habitat Protection Permit if you are constructing a permanent water intake</li> <li>Temporary Water Rights License</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Our <i>Domestic Water Use Fact Sheet</i> (FS-315) explains when you don't need a Water Rights License and/or Approval.</li> <li>Our <i>Surface Water Approval Process Fact Sheet</i> (FS-312) and Application for Water Rights License and Approval to Construct and Operate Works under the <i>Water Security Agency Act</i> (RG-103) explains the process and regulatory requirements.</li> <li>Our <i>Temporary Water Rights License for Industrial Water Use Fact Sheet</i> (FS-316) explains the process for obtaining a license for short term water use. You can apply and purchase at <a href="http://products.wsask.ca">products.wsask.ca</a>.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Using water from wells for industry, agriculture, municipalities, businesses, multi-user projects, etc.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ground Water Investigation Permit</li> <li>Water Rights License</li> <li>Approval to Construct and Approval to Operate Ground Water Works</li> <li>Temporary Water Rights License</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Domestic use for your own home or small livestock operation (e.g. under 300 cattle) does not require approval. Our <i>Domestic Water Use Fact Sheet</i> (FS-315) explains when you don't need these licenses and/or approvals.</li> <li>Our <i>Ground Water Approval Process Fact Sheet</i> (FS-313), Ground Water Investigation Permit Application Form (RG-122) and Application for Water Rights Licence and Approval to Construct and Operate Works under the <i>Water Security Agency Act</i> (RG-103) explains the process and regulatory requirements.</li> <li>Our <i>Temporary Water Rights Licence for Industrial Water Use Fact Sheet</i> (FS-316) explains the process for obtaining a licence for short term water use. You can apply and purchase at <a href="http://products.wsask.ca">products.wsask.ca</a>.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Digging a dugout</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aquatic Habitat Protection Permit if the dugout is in a creek bed</li> <li>Approval to Construct and Operate Surface Water Works if a dugout is for non-domestic purposes or has a capacity larger than 5 cubic decameters: e.g. 200 feet long x 100 feet wide x 14 feet deep with 3H:1V end slopes and 1.5H:1V side slopes.</li> <li>A Water Rights License is required for all non-domestic use or where domestic use exceeds five cubic decameters.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Our <i>Domestic Water Use Fact Sheet</i> (FS-315) explains when you don't need a Water Rights License and/or Approval.</li> <li>Our <i>Surface Water Approval Process Fact Sheet</i> (FS-312) and Application for Water Rights Licence and Approval to Construct and Operate Works under the <i>Water Security Agency Act</i> (RG-103) explains the process and regulatory requirements.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Building a dam</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Approval to Construct and Operate Surface Water Works</li> <li>Aquatic Habitat Protection Permit</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>You may wish to hire a qualified consultant for assistance.</li> <li>Our <i>Surface Water Approval Process Fact Sheet</i> (FS-312) and Application for Water Rights Licence and Approval to Construct and Operate Works under the <i>Water Security Agency Act</i> (RG-103) explains the process and regulatory requirements.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Drilling a well</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A Qualified Consultant</li> <li>Ground Water Investigation Permit</li> <li>Approval to Construct and Operate Ground Water Works</li> <li>A company with a Registered Drilling Rig to do the work</li> <li>Well information from neighboring wells</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>You may wish to hire a qualified consultant for assistance.</li> <li>Our <i>Ground Water Approval Process Fact Sheet</i> (FS-313), Ground Water Investigation Permit Application Form (RG-122) and Application for Water Rights Licence and Approval to Construct and Operate Works under the <i>Water Security Agency Act</i> (RG-103) explains the process and regulatory requirements.</li> <li>See a list of Registered at Drillers at <a href="http://wsask.ca/Water-Info/Ground-Water/Registered-Drillers">wsask.ca/Water-Info/Ground-Water/Registered-Drillers</a>.</li> <li>For information from neighbouring wells, please visit our Water Wells GIS Site: <a href="http://gis.wsask.ca">gis.wsask.ca</a>.</li> </ul>

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