

# DISPOSING OF FLOOD-DEPOSITED SAND, SILT AND DEBRIS ON FARMLAND

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

**Floods leave behind a trail of debris. Recovering flooded farmland — now covered with sand, silt or debris — can be tough.**

Generally, people making changes or building in the floodplain need prior permission or a permit from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and/or the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (COE).

Fortunately, most on-farm flood repair work does not require a permit, provided the site is returned to pre-flood conditions. However, approval may be required to dispose of flood-deposited debris. Follow the guidelines at right to help protect life and property, and speed up recovery work.

Please contact the DNR Flood Plain Program to find out if you need a permit or an approval. Help is as close as a phone call, 866-849-0321, or the permitting website.

## WHEN YOU NEED A PERMIT

Anyone who builds or has built a structure — such as a temporary levee around a house (see definition) — or deposited fill in the floodplain and now wants to make the structure or fill permanent must contact the DNR. Any debris disposed of in the floodplain may also need a permit.

### DEFINITION: STRUCTURE

Include almost anything built in the floodplain, from a culvert or flood wall to a levee, building, bridge or roadway. Before issuing a permit, the DNR Flood Plain Program evaluates each structure's location and size to determine if it will block flow during a flood, be susceptible to damage during a flood or cause other problems that could affect lives and property.



*The legacy of a flood may be acres of farmland covered with sand, silt, chemical tanks and other debris. Fortunately, rural landowners have some options for sand and silt removal, but DNR must approve the disposal site.*

## GET APPROVAL BEFORE DISPOSING OF DEBRIS

### 1. Choose several possible disposal sites away from the stream.

Note: Choosing sites that are already disturbed, such as cultivated fields, that are not in the floodplain and that are non-wetland will greatly shorten the time needed to gain approval for the disposal site.

### 2. Call or email the DNR and the Corps of Engineers for approval.

Please have the following information available for the proposed site before making the call:

- legal description (Section-Tier-Range),
- an aerial photo showing the general area of the debris deposits and possible disposal sites,
- indication of type of material (sand, gravel, woody debris, etc.) that will be deposited, and
- a certified wetland determination from the U.S. D. A. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

In most instances, DNR staff can help landowners find an acceptable disposal site that will not significantly affect flood flows and may not require a DNR permit. If the flood-deposited sand and

*Continued on back*

*Continued from front*

debris are not returned or placed in any water of the United States, including wetlands, permits from the Corps of Engineers will not be needed.

In most cases, the contact person can grant approval for a disposal site based on this initial contact. For some cases, the contact person may need additional information. The DNR or the COE contact person will let you know what is needed.

Landowner requests for assistance are high priority. The DNR will review them as quickly as possible.

**Landowner requests for assistance are high priority. The DNR will review them as quickly as possible.**

## FINANCIAL AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

The U.S. Department of Agriculture may offer financial or technical help for sand removal and other flood recovery efforts.

The Farm Service Agency offers emergency funding and technical assistance to farmers through the Emergency Conservation Program (ECP). Check the FSA website for more information at [www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=home&subject=copr&topic=ecp](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/webapp?area=home&subject=copr&topic=ecp).

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)-purchased floodplain easements may be available through the Emergency Watershed Protection Program. The easements help prevent soil erosion and slow run-off. Check the national NRCS website for more information at [www.nrcs.usda.gov/](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/) > Programs and Services > Water Resources Programs > Emergency Watershed Protection Program

or

[www.nrcs.usda.gov/](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/) > search for additional EWP information.

Additional information is available on the Iowa NRCS homepage > Guidance for Wetland Compliance during Post-Flood Recovery Activities

Contact your local U.S.D.A. Farm Service Agency or Natural Resources Conservation Service to find out what programs are available.

## CONTACTS

### Department of Natural Resources

Flood Plain Management Program  
[floodplain.iowadnr.gov](http://floodplain.iowadnr.gov)

Toll Free Technical Assistance  
866-849-0321

Kelly Stone:  
Iowa DNR, 502 E. Ninth St.  
Des Moines, IA 50319  
[Kelly.Stone@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:Kelly.Stone@dnr.iowa.gov)

### Corps of Engineers

**Omaha District** – for projects within the channel of the Missouri River and on the river side of the levee.

Regulatory Office:  
Wehrspann Field Office, 8901 S. 154th St.,  
Omaha, NE 68138-3635

[www.nwo.usace.army.mil/html/od-rne/nehome.html](http://www.nwo.usace.army.mil/html/od-rne/nehome.html)

John Moeschen: 402-896-0896

**Rock Island District** - for projects on the landward side of the Missouri River levee and the rest of Iowa:

Regulatory Office:  
Click “Flood Damage Recovery” on  
[www2.mvr.usace.army.mil/Regulatory/](http://www2.mvr.usace.army.mil/Regulatory/)

Donna Jones:  
309-794-5371  
[donna.m.jones@usace.army.mil](mailto:donna.m.jones@usace.army.mil)

Rock Island District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Attn.: Donna Jones  
P.O. Box 2004  
Rock Island, IL 61204-2004

Find Corps of Engineers flood repair information at  
[www2.mvr.usace.army.mil/Regulatory/documents/floodrepairsheet.pdf](http://www2.mvr.usace.army.mil/Regulatory/documents/floodrepairsheet.pdf)