

Who do I apply to?

Building any sort of structure, or docks up to 120ft.
Local Government Council

Building docks greater than 120 ft. *Your application must first go to the relevant Local Government Council for their comment, and it is then forwarded on to the Docks Committee in Nassau, followed by the Minister responsible for the Port Department for final approval.*

Dredging. The Department of Lands and Surveys
PO. Box N-592
Bay & Armstrong Sts.
Nassau, Bahamas
242-502-1200, 242-322-2328(9)

Excavation, landfill, mining, digging or removal of sand from beaches and dunes.

Ministry of The Environment
3rd Floor,
Dockendale House,
West Bay Street
PO Box N-3040,
Nassau, The Bahamas
242-328-2701(5)

Some applications may be available online, though most should be available from the relevant government offices.

Helpful websites:

<http://laws.bahamas.gov.bs>

http://laws.bahamas.gov.bs/statutes/statute_CHAPTER_260.html (Conservation of the Physical Landscape of The Bahamas)

www.best.bs

www.bnt.bs/pdfs/huntersguide.pdf

http://www.friendsoftheenvironment.org/Sustainable_Development.html

Anyone has the right to request to see a project permit to assure that procedure has been followed properly.

If a permit has not been obtained then local Government officials, the Administrator's office, the police and any other relevant Government Ministry should be notified.

You have the right to ask the person who hired you if they have a permit. If they don't, ***you are both responsible for damages.***

If you are planning to undertake any of the actions listed in this brochure, please contact your local Council or the contacts listed below for the appropriate steps necessary to apply for a permit.

Important Abaco Contact Information:

Abaco Island Administrator: 367-2343

Hope Town District Council: 366-0600

Central Abaco District Office: 367-4957

North Abaco District Office: 365-0000 /0359

South Abaco District Office: 366-4022

Department of Marine Resources: 699-0202

Department of Agriculture: 367-2240

Department of Environmental Health: 699-0032

Port Department: 367-2934

Do it Right!

A Guide to Property Development in Abaco



www.friendsoftheenvironment.org

info@friendsoftheenvironment.org

242-367-2721

Support Sustainable Development for Abaco:

Make sure your project is properly permitted.

Each of these actions requires a permit:

- Building any sort of structure
- Docks, or any other structure on the sea bed
- Removal of Protected Trees
- Removal of Mangroves
- Dredging
- Landfill operation, Mining or Excavation* of any kind
- Digging or removal of sand from beaches and dunes

*For an explanation of all activities that fall under "Excavation" visit: http://laws.bahamas.gov.bs/statutes/statute_CHAPTER_260.html (Part I).

Don't forget to check whether your community has any zoning or ordinances that may affect your project.

Follow the guidelines and laws set forth by The Bahamas Government in order to preserve the country's natural resources and ensure sustainable development for Abaco.



ABOUT MANGROVES

Mangroves are salt-tolerant plants that grow along the coastline of The Bahamas. Mangroves are beneficial for several reasons: They buffer the shoreline from storm surge, and help reduce erosion. Mangroves filter run-off and help prevent silt from damaging the marine environment. Their most important function may be as a nursery for juvenile marine life. Scientists report that 80% of the seafood we like to eat grows up in mangroves. This includes grouper, conch, and crawfish (which contributed nearly \$75 million to the GDP in 2010).



Four types of mangrove are found in The Bahamas:

Red Mangrove (pictured), Black Mangrove, White Mangrove and Buttonwood

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW:

Mangroves grow below the high tide line, this means that they are considered part of the sea bottom. Any actions that affect the sea bottom need permits. Depending on the extent of the project permits* may need to be issued from The Department of Lands and Surveys and/or The Port Department.

The Department of Lands and Surveys
P.O. Box N-592
Nassau, Bahamas
242-502-1200, 242-322-2328(9)

Port Department
P.O. Box N-8175,
Nassau, N.P., Bahamas
242-326-7354

*The Bahamas is in the process of zoning forestry resources, so mangroves may eventually fall under the new Forestry Act. It would be best to contact your Local Government office before proceeding.

ABOUT TREES

Trees are an important part of our environment. They provide food, shade and help clean the air by absorbing carbon dioxide and releasing oxygen. Trees provide food for animals and humans and are an important natural resource for lumber. A house shaded by trees will be cooler in the summer and thus will reduce your electricity bill! Avoid clear-cutting land to preserve valuable top soil and save mature trees to shade your buildings.

Protected Trees of The Bahamas

It is illegal to remove or cut down any of the following trees without a permit:

- Beefwood (*Guapira discolor*)
- Black Ebony (*Pera bumeliifolia*)
- Brasiletto (*Caesalpinia vesicaria*)
- Candlewood (*Gochnatia ilicifolia*)
- Caribbean Pine (*Pinus caribaea var. bahamensis*)
- Horseflesh (*Lysiloma sabiau var. bahamensis*)
- Lignum vitae (*Guaiacum sanctum*)
- Mahogany/Madeira (*Swietenia mahagoni*)
- Rauwolfia (*Rauwolfia nitida*)
- Red Cedar (*Juniperus bermudiana*)
- Silk Cotton (*Ceiba pentandra*)



Mahogany

For more information on protected trees:

http://www.bahamaschm.org/protected_species.htm

* The Director of Forestry is responsible for issuing permits to remove protected trees. Contact: Christopher Russell, 242-328-2701

Planning to import some trees or plants? Contact the Department of Agriculture to ensure the trees on your list are not invasive or otherwise harmful to our environment.