

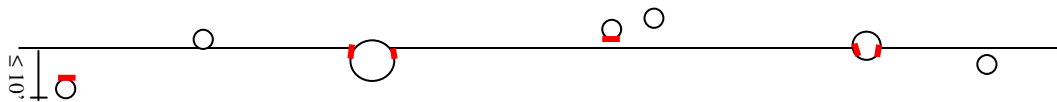


PAINTING YOUR PROPERTY BOUNDARIES

Good fences make good neighbors.
—Robert Frost, “Mending Wall”

Landowners wishing to certify their forestlands with Vermont Family Forests need to clearly mark their property boundaries. Though this may sound daunting, the process is really quite straight-forward, and can be downright enjoyable! Here’s what you need to do:

- 1. Identify your boundaries.** Use your survey map to identify the blazes and monumentation with which the surveyor marked the property boundaries.
- 2. Repaint blazes.**
Vermont state law allows property owners to maintain existing boundary monumentation. Here’s how¹:
(Note: When painting old blazes, do not make new marks with an ax, as only licensed surveyors can add to survey monumentation in any way.)
 - **Paint centerline trees with a 2"x6" vertical mark at the two points that the tree intersects the property line.**
 - **Trees on either side and within 10’ of the property line receive a single 3" to 4" wide band facing the property line. (Only paint the half of the tree facing the line.)**
 - **Trees indicating a directional change receive a double 3" to 4" wide band painted on the side of the tree to which the property line changes direction.**
 - **Corner trees located within 5' of the corner receive a triple 3" to 4" wide band on the side of the tree directly facing the corner stake or post.**



3. Cut away limbs or brush that hide existing blazes from view.
4. Maintain corner monuments by cutting away brush and dead limbs around the monument. Paint the monument itself, but not the whole mound of stones. Also repaint pointers. If the monument is in bad shape or missing, contact a licensed land surveyor to perform remonumentation.

Latex Boundary Marking Paint

Most boundary paints are petroleum oil-based. Chemicals used in the production of oil-based paint can threaten human health and the health of the natural environment if handled or disposed of improperly. VFF stocks red, latex boundary marking paint. This paint has a weathering durability of 4-9 years and has an added solvent that allows cold-weather application. VFF sells the paint at cost, for \$20/gallon.

One mile of boundary line requires roughly one gallon of paint.

¹For more information on boundary marking:

Working With Your Woodlands: A Landowner’s Guide. Mollie Beattie, Charles Thompson, and Lynn Levine. University Press of New England: Hanover and London, 1993. pp. 85-91.

“Establishing and Maintaining Property Boundaries.” Clemson University Cooperative Extension website.
<http://virtual.clemson.edu/groups/FieldOps/Cgs/boundary.htm>.