

Septic System Frequently Asked Questions

Why are septic system rules changing?

The legislature adopted House Bill 1379 in 2023 and updates to Basin Management Action Plans in 2025, which together outline requirements for septic systems across the State of Florida.

Why the focus on septic systems?

Traditional septic systems do not remove nitrogen, which can leach into our groundwater. Nitrogen is the main pollutant harming our groundwater and springs and contributes to harmful algal outbreaks. Enhanced Nutrient Reducing (ENR) septic systems are designed to reduce nitrogen pollution and are now required in some areas across the state. The County and the State are also focusing on reducing other nutrient sources.

How do I tell the rules for my property?

Zoom in on this interactive map of the State of Florida to determine which requirements apply to your property;

<https://fdep.maps.arcgis.com/apps/instant/sidebar/index.html?appid=d34fd0aa27fd4d60bf7c0a903adaa709>

What if I have an existing septic system?

Most existing septic systems in Alachua County do not need to be upgraded at this time. Systems in the Silver Springs Basin, in the southeastern portion of Alachua County, must upgrade by 2046 due to the State's Silver Springs Basin Management Action Plan. Use the map above to see which rules apply to your property.

What if I need to install a new septic system?

New systems on lots 1 acre or less in most of the County (Orange Creek, Santa Fe, and Silver Springs basins) must be enhanced systems. All systems within the State's Santa Fe Priority areas (Hornsby and Devils Ear Springsheds) must be enhanced systems regardless of lot size. Use the map above to see which rules apply to your property.

Who permits septic systems?

Septic systems are regulated by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP). The [Alachua County Health Department](#) operates the program locally. To obtain a permit for proposed installations, repairs, modifications, and approvals of existing systems, contact the Alachua County Health Department at 352-334-7930.

How does Alachua County's rebate program work?

Alachua County has received funding from the State to offer rebates to property owners within the Santa Fe and Silver Springs basins. Unfortunately, the funding does not apply within the Orange Creek Basin, due to the grant rules. Rebates are up to \$16,000 while funds last. Fill out this [form](#) to express interest in the program. Please be patient, as there is a lot of interest, and staff are actively applying to extend the funding source.