

What's Happening?

What is the State doing?

During the 2023 session, the Florida Legislature passed House Bill (HB) 1379. This statute requires new septic systems to be Enhanced Nitrogen Reducing (ENR) systems on lots one acre or less in areas with impaired waters, which includes most of Alachua County.

What is the County Doing?

Alachua County is leading by example and working to upgrade county septic systems to ENRs. We are also seeking grant funding to help property owners upgrade their systems. Visit the QR code to learn more about septic systems and to check on the availability of funds.



AlachuaCountyWater.org > Wastewater Program

What is the City of Gainesville Doing?

The City of Gainesville has the ConnectFree Program to help property owners connect to GRU's centralized wastewater collection system. Visit their website to learn more.

Resources



352-264-6800

City of Gainesville



ConnectFREE Program



FDEP Page on Permitting of Enhanced Nutrient Reducing Onsite Sewage Treatment and Disposal Systems (ENR-OSTDS)

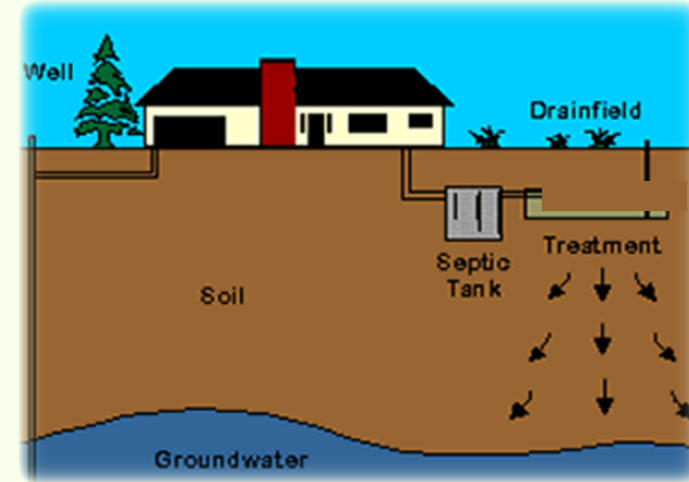


Septic systems require a permit. You can apply in person at **224 SE 24 Street in Gainesville.**

Call **352-334-7930** for more information.



Reducing Pollution from Septic Systems



Traditional septic systems protect human health by treating pathogens and bacteria but are not designed to remove nutrient pollution.

We have over 26,000 septic tanks in Alachua County adding nitrogen pollution to our lakes, rivers, springs, and groundwater – our drinking water source.

Most homeowners did not have a choice about their home's waste disposal method, but now it is time to make some changes and work together to protect our homes and our water!



What Can You Do?

To protect our water, you can upgrade your traditional septic system to an Enhanced Nitrogen Reducing (ENR) system or connect to centralized sewer, when available. Contact your local city for information on where centralized sewer is available.

There are **three** types of Enhanced Nitrogen Reducing (ENR) systems approved for use in Florida.

1

In-Ground Nitrogen Reducing Biofilter (INRB)

These are typically passive systems with media layers (like mulch) under the drainfield that remove nitrogen. The state estimates that these remove 65% of the nitrogen. You must have well drained soils with at least 36 vertical inches of sandy soils to accommodate the larger drainfield that is associated with these systems, so these won't work on every site.



This photo shows the different materials that were put under the drainfield of the INRB system at Poe Springs County Park.

2

Aerobic Treatment Units (ATU)

These systems go through a national certification process and use pumps to achieve up to 85% nitrogen reduction in the tank. Additional treatment occurs in the drainfield. These systems require an operating permit and an annual inspection from the Health Department, in addition to two maintenance entity service visits per year to ensure they are working properly.



Aerobic systems come in all different shapes and sizes and you can choose from various manufacturers.

3

Performance Based Treatment System (PBTs)

These systems are engineer-designed to achieve specific treatment goals for certain pollutants and are uncommon unless you have a challenging site. These systems have the same inspection requirements as aerobic systems plus water quality monitoring.