

The District and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) have an operating agreement that identifies which agency will process **ERPs** for different types of projects. The District processes residential and commercial developments, while the FDEP processes power plants, wastewater treatment plants and single-family home projects.

Well construction permits are required prior to installation of a well within the District. The permits ensure that wells are constructed by qualified contractors and meet rigid safety and durability standards.



Where do I get my permit?

The District has three service offices in addition to its headquarters in Brooksville that handle permit applications. Permit applications can be obtained from the office most convenient for you; however, each office handles specific counties. The back of this publication lists the District offices and their designated counties. Permit information and applications are also available online at www.WaterMatters.org/permits/.

Southwest Florida Water Management District Offices

Brooksville Headquarters

2379 Broad Street
Brooksville, FL 34604-6899
(352) 796-7211
1-800-423-1476 (FL only)

This office handles permits for Hernando, Pasco, Citrus, Lake, Levy, Marion and Sumter counties.

Bartow Service Office

170 Century Boulevard
Bartow, FL 33830-7700
(863) 534-1448
1-800-492-7862 (FL only)

This office handles permits for Polk, Highlands and Hardee counties.

Sarasota Service Office

6750 Fruitville Road
Sarasota, FL 34240-9711
(941) 377-3722
1-800-320-3503 (FL only)

This office handles permits for Sarasota, Manatee, Charlotte and DeSoto counties.

Tampa Service Office

7601 Highway 301 North
Tampa, FL 33637-6759
(813) 985-7481
1-800-836-0797 (FL only)

This office handles permits for Hillsborough and Pinellas counties.

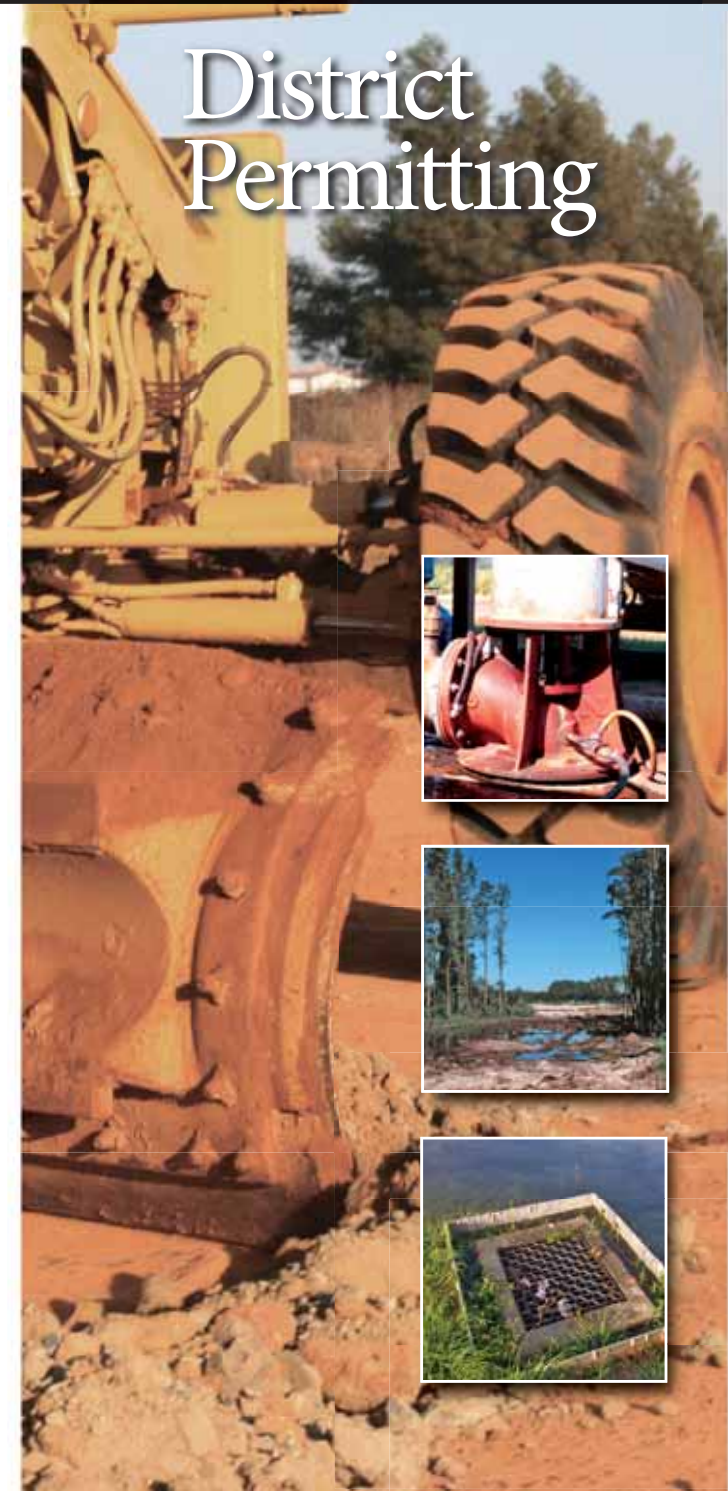
Southwest Florida
Water Management District

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This information will be made available in accessible formats upon request. Please contact the Communications Department at (352) 796-7211 or 1-800-423-1476 (FL only), ext. 4757; TDD only at 1-800-231-6103 (FL only).

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District Permitting



The information in this publication applies only to permits issued by the Southwest Florida Water Management District (District). Following the information presented in this publication does not guarantee issuance of a permit, since each application is unique and must be evaluated individually. This information is provided for general guidance only. Please contact the appropriate District office (on back) for more specific information on permitting requirements.

Environmental permits also may be required by other federal, state and local agencies.

Why does the District issue permits?

Water is a public resource that belongs to all of us. However, fresh water is not limitless. Excessive withdrawals can harm the resources. Other human activities also pose threats. Without the proper safeguards for wetlands, floodplain encroachment and stormwater runoff can cause pollution and flooding. District permitting benefits residents, property owners and businesses by reducing the risk of flooding and protecting water quality and water supplies for current and future generations.

Do I need a District permit?

If you want to withdraw large quantities of water, develop property or construct a well, there's a good chance you'll need a District permit.

The District issues three kinds of permits:

- **Water use permits (WUPs)** ensure that withdrawals are necessary, do not harm the resources and do not prevent existing legal users from withdrawing their permitted quantities.
- **Environmental resource permits (ERPs)** protect wetlands and floodplain functions, treat water quality of stormwater runoff and reduce the risk of new development causing flooding.
- **Well construction permits (WCPs)** ensure that wells are properly constructed to protect the water resources.



What type of permit do I need?

Water use permits allow the withdrawal of specific quantities of ground or surface water for limited periods of time under certain conditions.

You need a **water use permit** if:

- You plan to withdraw more than 100,000 gallons per day, **OR**
- The outside diameter of your groundwater well is six inches or larger, **OR**

- The outside diameter of your withdrawal pipe from a surface water body is four inches or larger, **OR**
- The total withdrawal capacity of your system is 1 million gallons per day or larger.

Generally, a withdrawal for personal domestic use for an individual home is small enough to fall below the threshold for requiring a water use permit. However, if you are constructing a well, you will still need to get a well construction permit.

Environmental resource permits ensure that new development properly treats stormwater runoff to remove pollutants, compensates for any losses in floodplain storage, mitigates for any impacts to wetlands and does not increase the rate of stormwater runoff onto neighboring properties.

You need an **environmental resource permit** if your construction project:

- Disrupts wetlands, **OR**
- Encroaches on a floodplain, **OR**
- Increases, decreases or diverts stormwater runoff, **OR**
- Contributes to water pollution.

Examples of activities covered by an **ERP** include:

- Dredging and filling in wetlands
- Constructing flood protection facilities
- Constructing subdivisions or businesses
- Providing stormwater containment and treatment
- Site grading
- Building dams or reservoirs
- Other activities affecting state waters