

FLOODING & DRAINAGE

Reference Guide
for Lake, Polk, Hardee,
DeSoto and Highlands counties



Drainage complaints or issues related to:

- Stormwater management systems (i.e. retention ponds, swales, etc.) in District-permitted subdivisions constructed after October 1, 1984 (You may also contact the subdivision's homeowners association or CDD)
- Wetlands and/or activities with wetland impacts where the activity falls within a District-permitted project
- Dewatering violations or runoff from a District-permitted construction site (you may also contact your local law enforcement agency)
- Agriculture and larger water users
- Subdivisions and mobile home communities owned by a single entity
- Unauthorized pumping

***Contact the Southwest Florida
Water Management District
for further information.***

Roadway flooding or drainage problems related to:

- Lack of maintenance of ponds, swales, ditches, cross drains and culverts within the right-of-ways on county-maintained roads
- Emergency pumping to protect the health, safety and welfare of the general public
- Flooding and/or drainage complaints that involve runoff from county roadways, ditches or easements

Flooding not associated with roadways related to:

- County easements or right-of-ways
- Home flooding and emergencies determined by the Board of County Commissioners
- Emergency pumping to protect the health, life, safety and welfare of the general public

Contact Lake, Polk, Hardee, DeSoto or Highlands County respectively for further information.

Drainage complaints or issues related to:

- Single-family homes, not a part of a larger District-permitted subdivision without a Homeowners Association or management entity
- Lakes, streams and other waters of the state
- Water quality issues, i.e. groundwater contamination, illegal dumping of chemicals, etc.

Contact the Florida Department of Environmental Protection for further information.

Drinking water, septic-related issues and water quality concerns:

Contact the Florida Department of Health for further information.

Drainage and flooding within city limits:

Contact your local municipality.

Questions about jurisdictional responsibilities related to:

- Projects constructed after 1984
- Agricultural-related projects
- District-maintained structures and canals
- Wetlands not associated with single-family residential
- Unpermitted building construction
- Project deviations
- Dewatering
- Water restrictions or violations
- Surface water and groundwater withdrawals
- Well construction

Contact the Southwest Florida Water Management District.

This document is not intended to represent all rules and regulations of Lake County, Polk County, Hardee County, DeSoto County, Highlands County, Florida Department of Environmental Protection or the Southwest Florida Water Management District relating to flooding and drainage issues. It is intended as a guide to the most frequently asked questions. If you have additional questions regarding rules and regulations, contact the appropriate agency.

The Southwest Florida Water Management District (District) does not discriminate on the basis of disability. This nondiscrimination policy involves every aspect of the District's functions, including access to and participation in the District's programs, services and activities. Anyone requiring reasonable accommodation, or who would like information as to the existence and location of accessible services, activities, and facilities, as provided for in the Americans with Disabilities Act, should contact the Human Resources Office Chief, at 2379 Broad St., Brooksville, FL 34604-6899; telephone (352) 796-7211 or 1-800-423-1476 (FL only); or email ADACoordinator@WaterMatters.org. If you are hearing or speech impaired, please contact the agency using the Florida Relay Service, 1-800-955-8771 (TDD) or 1-800-955-8770 (Voice). If requested, appropriate auxiliary aids and services will be provided at any public meeting, forum, or event of the District. In the event of a complaint, please follow the grievance procedure located at WaterMatters.org/ADA.

Contact Information

Southwest Florida Water Management District

WaterMatters.org

Bartow

1-800-492-7862 or (863) 534-1448

Brooksville

1-800-423-1476 or (352) 796-7211

Lake County

Lake County Road & Bridge Department
(325) 343-6439

Lake County – Office of Health and Human Services
(352) 742-6520

Polk County

Roads and Drainage
(863) 535-2200 or Toll Free 800-780-5346

Polk County Health Department
Lakeland Office - Main Location
(863) 519-7900

Hardee County

Hardee County Road & Bridge
(863)-773-3272

Hardee County Health Department
(863) 773-4161

DeSoto County

Road and Bridge
(863) 993-4821

Health Department
Baldwin Office - Main Location
(863) 993-4601

Highlands County

Road and Bridge
(863) 402-6529

Health Department
Sebring Office – Main location
(863) 386-6040

Florida Department of Environmental Protection

Southwest District (Tampa Office)
(813) 470-5700

South District (Fort Myers Office)
(239) 344-5600

Southwest Florida
Water Management District



Provided by the Southwest Florida Water Management District,
Lake, Polk, Hardee, DeSoto and Highlands counties.