

FLOODING & DRAINAGE



Reference Guide
for Polk, Hardee 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)
- Wetlands and/or activities with wetland impacts where the activity falls within a District-permitted project
- Watering violations or improper watering and runoff (you may also contact your local law enforcement agency)
- Agriculture and larger water users
- Mobile home communities owned by a single entity

Contact the Southwest Florida Water Management District for further information.

Roadway flooding or drainage problems related to:

- Maintenance of 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
- 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 Polk, Hardee or Highlands County respectively for further information.

Drainage complaints or issues related to:

- Single-family homes, not part of a larger District-permitted subdivision
- 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 Polk County, Hardee 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.

Contact Information

Southwest Florida Water Management District

WaterMatters.org

Bartow	Brooksville
1-800-492-7862 or (863) 534-1448	1-800-423-1476 or (352) 796-7211

Polk County

Polk-County.net

Health Department	Roads and Drainage
(863) 534-8330	(863) 535-2200

Hardee County

HardeeCounty.net

Health Department	Road and Bridge
(863) 773-4161	(863) 773-3272

Highlands County

HCBCC.net

Department of Environmental Health	Road and Bridge
(863) 773-4161	(863) 402-6529

Florida Department of Environmental Protection

FloridaDEP.gov

Southwest District (Tampa Office)	South District (Fort Myers Office)
FloridaDEP.gov/Southwest (813) 470-5700	FloridaDEP.gov/South (239) 344-5600

Southwest Florida
Water Management District



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

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 and activities. Anyone requiring reasonable accommodation as provided for in the Americans with Disabilities Act should contact the District's Human Resources Office Chief, 2379 Broad St., Brooksville, FL 34604-6899; telephone (352) 796-7211 or 1-800-423-1476 (FL only), ext. 4703; 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).