

What is the County Doing?

Alachua County is leading by example by upgrading county septic systems to Enhanced Nitrogen Reducing (ENR) systems. We are also seeking grant funding to help property owners upgrade their systems. Scan the QR code to learn more about septic systems and to check on the availability of funds.



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.

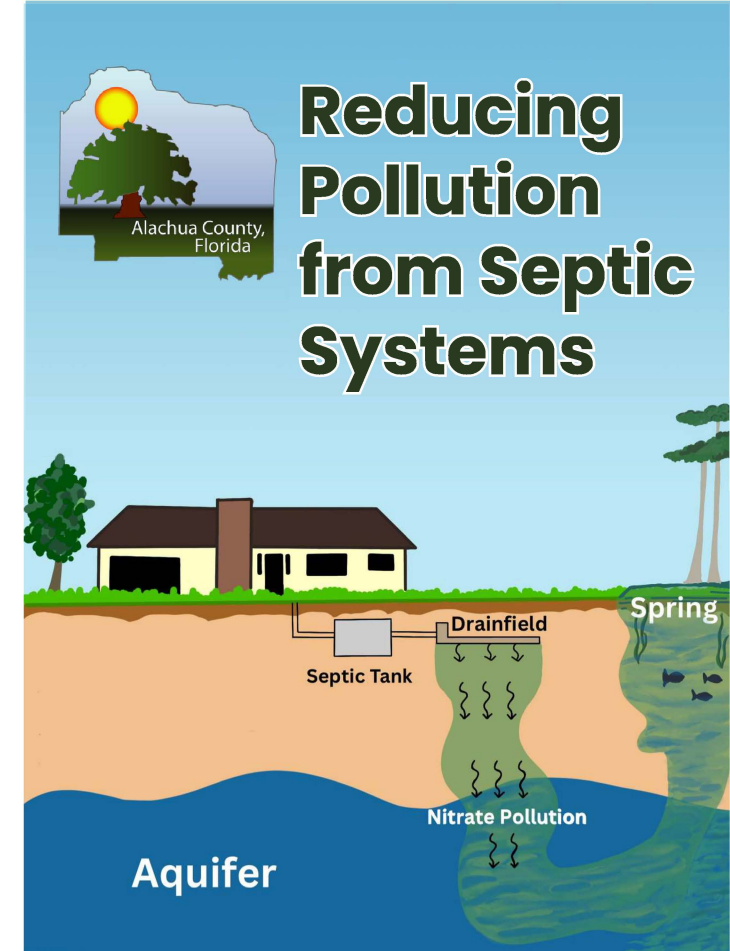
What is the State doing?

The State has requirements for ENR systems for new construction and existing systems based on watersheds. To learn what is required on your lot, contact Alachua County Environmental Protection Water Resources staff at 352-264-6800.

Septic systems require a permit. Contact 352-334-7930 to learn more.

Protect Your Septic System!

1. Inspect your system every 2 to 3 years and pump as recommended.
2. Use water efficiently:
 - Take showers in 5 minutes or less.
 - Turn off faucets while brushing teeth and handwashing dishes.
 - Run the dishwasher only when full.
 - Upgrade to high efficiency appliances.
 - Use toilets to flush waste only (not kitty litter, diapers or other trash).
 - Fix leaks.
3. Bring household chemicals to the Alachua County HazWaste Center, instead of pouring in sinks or toilets.
4. Care for your drain field. Avoid driving or parking vehicles on it and plant only grass over and near your drain field to avoid damage from roots.



Traditional septic systems treat pathogens and bacteria but are not designed to remove nutrient pollution.

We have more than 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 septic system, but now is a great 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 passive systems with media layers (like mulch) under the drainfield that remove nitrogen. The state estimates 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.



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

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.

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.