

Alachua County Landscape Irrigation Efficiency Code FAQs

- 1) **Where does this ordinance apply?** All new irrigation systems (or modifications to at least 50% by area of existing systems) fall under the jurisdiction of this code. These standards apply within Alachua County, including within the municipalities.
- 2) **Do I have to follow these standards if I install an irrigation system at my own house?** Yes, these standards apply to contractors installing and maintaining systems along with “Do it Yourself” jobs. Please call EPD staff at 352-264-6809 if you plan to install it yourself, as we will help you navigate the approval process.
- 3) **How does this process work?**
 - a) Submit the completed Review Form, Irrigation Sketch, Authorization to Access Property form, and applicable fee(s) to the Alachua County Environmental Protection Department (EPD) in person or online (preferred).
 - b) EPD will review the application within 14 days and send an approval once it can be installed.
 - c) Property owner or lawn care professional notifies EPD when work is completed and ready for EPD inspection or provides EPD with the self-inspection checklist.
 - d) For EPD inspections, we will notify property owner or lawn care professional if there is an issue.
 - e) If the system is not in compliance, a re-inspection fee may be required.
- 4) **What is the Authorization to Access Property form?** This form must be signed by the property owner (or their authorized agent) to give EPD staff permission to inspect the irrigation system after it is installed. It must be filled out for all jobs, even those that will be self-inspected, as EPD must randomly inspect some jobs to ensure compliance. You may fill out one form for each phase of a development, as long as you provide a list of the lots for which it applies.
- 5) **How do I self-inspect my own jobs?** If you provide your current Florida Irrigation Specialty Contractor license number or proof of current Florida Water Star Accredited Irrigation and Landscape Professional accreditation to EPD, you may self-inspect your jobs. You will not have to pay the inspection fee if you go this route. EPD will randomly inspect some jobs and may revoke your self-inspection status if sites do not comply with the ordinance.
- 6) **The Code requires no more than 60% of the landscaped area to be high volume irrigation. What is the landscaped area?** The landscaped area is the entire parcel excluding the building footprint, driveways, hardscapes such as decks and patios, and other non-planted areas. Natural woods are not considered part of the landscaped area; however just mulch without vegetation is part of the landscaped area. Landscaped area also includes water features and Florida-Friendly landscaped areas.
- 7) **Do you have any tips for providing a complete irrigation sketch?** In addition to the required elements in the Code, providing the following on your sketch will speed up staff review:
 - a) An Excel table with calculations for required information is provided on our website. Copying and pasting the completed table on your sketch is recommended.
 - b) In addition to showing the pipe line connections to zone valves, outlining and numbering each zone is recommended.

- c) Providing GPM or GPH for each head type helps during the inspection in case there is any question about heads being high or low volume.
- d) Use of a graphic scale with bars to represent distances helps in case the sketch needs to be enlarged and printed.
- 8) **Is this process on-line?** Yes, you may upload all required documents and pay applicable fees through the Alachua County Irrigation Professional Portal at secure.alachuacounty.us/Irrigation. Once you register, you will get a log in and password for the site. You can pay multiple fees at once using the secure “shopping cart”. The site will NOT store your credit card information, so you will have to enter this information every time you “check out”. A 3.5% processing fee is applied for credit cards on-line.
- 9) **Will this slow down construction projects?** No, this process is separate from the permitting process and is not tied to the Certificate of Occupancy (CO) or building permit.
- 10) **How will this code be enforced?** EPD will take an education first approach during the beginning of the code implementation. Violations of the code may lead to written warnings, fines, and court appearances. Retrofitting of non-compliant irrigation systems may be required to achieve compliance.

Contact Information:

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Irrigation Design Code Fees (as of 10/1/2022)		
Category	Fee Type	Fee
All	Temporary Irrigation Approval Fee	\$0
	After the Fact Fee <i>(Additional fee for installing system prior to receiving county approval)</i>	\$200
Residential	Approval Fee <i>(Plan Review)</i>	\$100
	Inspection Fee <i>(installer not certified for self-inspection)</i>	\$150
	Re-Inspection Fee <i>(failed county random or required inspection)</i>	\$150
Non-Residential <i>(includes common areas)</i>	Approval Fee <i>(Plan Review)</i>	\$150
	County Inspection Fee <i>(installer is not certified for self-inspection)</i>	\$200
	County Re-Inspection Fee <i>(failed county random or required inspection)</i>	\$200