

Alachua County Santa Fe Septic System Upgrade Rebate Program Fact Sheet

Alachua County Environmental Protection Department (ACEPD) has received funding from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) to provide property owners with 50% rebates, up to \$5,000, to upgrade existing septic systems to enhanced nutrient reducing systems to improve water quality in our lakes, rivers, and springs.

Program Requirements

Existing traditional septic systems in Alachua County on properties within the Santa Fe River or Silver Springs basin must be upgraded to an approved enhanced nutrient reducing system (ENR). If you are unsure about your property, please fill out the interest form below and staff will check. The following types of systems are eligible for the rebate (additional details are provided in Tables 1 and 2):

- Inground Nutrient Reducing Biofilter (INRB) systems which meet site requirements listed in Table 1.
- NSF 245 Certified Aerobic Treatment Unit (ATU) systems that achieve 65% nitrogen removal in the tank, as listed in Table 2.
- Performance Based Treatment Systems also qualify but are rare so are not included in this fact sheet.

Program Process

1. To verify eligibility, fill out this [FORM](#) or contact Stacie Greco: 352-264-6829 or Sgreco@alachuacounty.us
2. Site evaluations (soil testing) must be conducted by the Alachua County Health Department. Please let the Health Department know that you are participating in the Rebate Program when you apply either in person at 224 SE 24th Street Gainesville 32641 or via email: Tina.Cribbs@FLHealth.gov and Todd.Harris@FLHealth.gov
3. Property owners will work with a registered septic contractor or certified plumber for system design and installation. All applicable permits and approvals must be obtained prior to initiating work.
4. Once installed and fully permitted, please submit the following to ACEPD. If all documentation is complete, a check will be sent within 2-6 weeks. Please be advised that you may need to report any rebate amount greater than \$600 on your taxes.
 - a. Completed Rebate Form
 - b. Copy of your FDEP Operating permit (ATU systems) or Construction Inspection Final Approval (INRB systems)
 - c. Signed W-9 form
 - d. Receipt(s) from septic system installer showing the invoice has been paid.

Ineligible Expenses:

The following expenses are **NOT** eligible for reimbursement:

- Tree removal work
- Landscaping and/or irrigation repair or replacement
- Permitting fees (unless part of contractor invoice)
- Operating expenses (maintenance agreements and fees)

For additional rebate information, contact Stacie Greco at 352-264-6829 or Sgreco@alachuacounty.us

Which System is Right for You?

Please use Table 1 to help understand the differences between the two types of enhanced nutrient reducing septic systems. Table 2 lists the Aerobic/NSF-245 systems that are pre-approved for this rebate program.

| Table 1: Comparison Table of Enhanced Nutrient Reducing Septic Systems | | |
|---|--|---|
| Parameter | INRB/Passive | Aerobic/NSF-245 |
| Site Requirements | <p>Larger area required for drainfield.</p> <p>There must be at least 36 inches of slightly limited (sandy) soils from existing ground surface.</p> <p>The wet season water table must be at least 36 inches below existing ground surface.</p> | <p>25% reduction of drainfield size is allowable when installed in sandy soil.</p> |
| Permitting Considerations | <p>Cannot be mounded and excavation with soil replacement is not authorized.</p> <p>Specific requirements for soil textures, colors, and wood materials (important when sourcing materials).</p> <p>A note must be recorded with the County Clerk in official records for the property. A template will be provided.</p> | <p>Requires an Operating Permit from the Health Department (currently \$100) that must be renewed every other year.</p> <p>Please see Table 2 for a list of eligible systems.</p> |
| Maintenance requirements beyond a traditional septic system | NA | Requires a maintenance contract with an entity trained on the specific technology; minimum two maintenance visits per year. |
| Operating Inspection Requirements | NA (but all septic systems should be pumped by a license contractor every 3-5 years to promote proper operation). | Annual Health Department inspection is required and is included in the Operating Permit fee. |
| System Operating Costs | NA | Electricity use comparable to running a refrigerator. |

| Table 2: Aerobic/NSF-245 Systems Approved for Rebate Program (updated 8/9/23) | | |
|--|---------------|-----------------------------------|
| Manufacturer | Series | In-Tank Nitrogen Reduction |
| Bio-Microbics | BioBarrier | 79% |
| Delta Treatment Systems | ECOPOD | 68.3% |
| Fuji Clean USA | CEN | 74% |
| Hoot Systems | Hoot ANR | 85% |
| Jet | Jet-CF | 67% |
| Norweco | Singulair TNT | 68% |
| Norweco | Singulair | 66% |

Which Contractor is Right for You?

Table 3 lists locally operating registered septic contractors and/or certified plumbers and the technologies they are currently certified to install and maintain. To be added or removed from this list, please contact Stacie Greco at 352-264-6829 or Sgreco@alachuacounty.us

| Table 3: List of local Septic Contractors and Certified Plumbers Participating in Alachua County Rebate Program* | | | |
|---|---------------------|--|---|
| Business Name | Phone Number | email | Certified for the following ATU Systems ** |
| Advance Septic | 352-210-9505 | dtcaldwell01@gmail.com | |
| Beltz Septic and Portable Toilets | 352-317-2527 | darla@beltzseptic.com | |
| BJs Septic and Site Work Inc. | 352-234-0805 | bjmooreseptic@gmail.com | |
| Dampier Septic Tank, Inc. | 352-378-2659 | Brenda.dstppw@bellsouth.net | Jet |
| Dwight Jones Inc | 904-408-9306 | jonessiteprep@yahoo.com | Fuji Clean |
| Jones Plumbing and Septic Tank Services Inc. | 352-221-4473 | tommyjones20092221@yahoo.com | Norweco, Jet |
| North Florida Septic Tank Inc. | 386-867-5175 | nfsepticTank@comcast.net | |
| Philip McDonald Plumbing Inc. | 904-964-3737 | pmcdonaldplumbing@yahoo.com | |
| Pure Country Septic | 352-246-3997 | purecountryseptic@yahoo.com | |
| Smith Septic | 386-935-1429 | smithseptic@outlook.com | Norweco/ Hoot |
| <p>* To be added to this list please contact Stacie Greco at 352-264-6829 or Sgreco@AlachuaCounty.us</p> <p>** This is an incomplete list and should be verified with Alachua County</p> | | | |