

# House Bill (HB) 1379 Requirements for Enhanced Nutrient-Reducing Systems Fact Sheet

During the 2023 legislative session, the Florida Legislature passed House Bill (HB) 1379, [Laws of Florida Chapter No. 2023-169](#). This bill requires that people applying for a new septic system construction permit in specific areas of the state install a specialized nitrogen-reducing system instead of a conventional septic system. These specialized systems are referred to as enhanced nutrient-reducing onsite sewage treatment and disposal systems (ENR-OSTDS, or “nitrogen-reducing systems”).

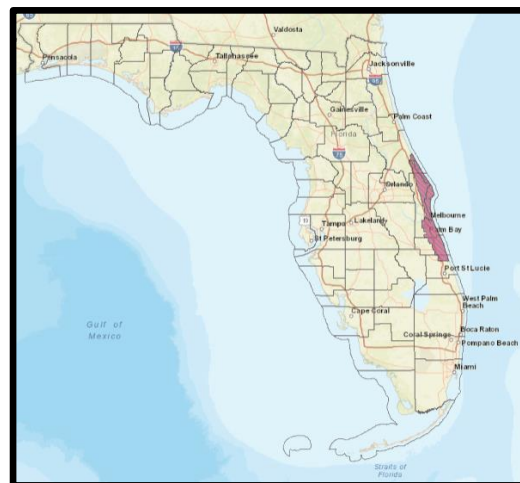
## When and where do these requirements take effect?

**Effective July 1, 2023**, HB 1379 requires permit applicants for new septic systems serving lots of one acre or less within impacted areas to install a nitrogen-reducing system instead of a conventional septic system. This means new system construction permit applications for these lots must comply with enhanced nutrient-reducing system requirements unless they were received<sup>1</sup> prior to July 1, 2023 and have been determined complete (except for the site evaluation). These impacted areas include all Basin Management Action Plan (BMAP) areas and Alternative Restoration Plan areas. The only counties in Florida that do not contain any areas impacted by HB 1379 are Bay, Calhoun, Franklin, Gulf, Holmes, Liberty, Nassau, Santa Rosa, Walton and Washington.

**Effective January 1, 2024**, HB 1379 requires nitrogen-reducing systems for new septic systems serving lots of all sizes within the Indian River Lagoon Protection Program area (parts of Brevard, Indian River, St. Lucie and Volusia counties). New septic system construction permit applications for all lots in this area must comply with enhanced nutrient-reducing system requirements unless they were received prior to January 1, 2024 and have been determined complete (except for the site evaluation). In addition, by January 1, 2030, any commercial or residential property with an existing septic system located within this area must connect to central sewer (if available) or upgrade to a nitrogen-reducing system or other wastewater treatment system that achieves at least 65 percent nitrogen reduction.



Area impacted by HB 1379 requirements for lots one acre or less starting July 1, 2023.



Area impacted by HB 1379 requirements for all lot sizes starting January 1, 2024 (also subject to requirements to upgrade existing systems by January 1, 2030).

<sup>1</sup> Through an interagency agreement with the Department of Environmental Protection, the Department of Health-county health departments permit septic systems.

## Why is reducing nitrogen important?

Nitrogen is a pollutant that can cause environmental and drinking water concerns. Discharge from conventional septic systems is one of many sources of nitrogen into the groundwater of Florida. The installation of nitrogen-reducing systems can lower the impact that septic systems have on the state's ground and surface waters.

## How do I know if my property is in area impacted by HB 1379?

See the [BMAPs and Alternative Restoration Plans - OSTDS Requirements mapping tool](https://floridadep.gov/BMAPs-ARP-OSTDS): (<https://floridadep.gov/BMAPs-ARP-OSTDS>) to determine if a lot is in an impacted area.

## When is a new system construction permit required?

A new system construction permit is required when installing a new system where none exists or in some cases when replacing a complete system. This is described in more detail in [DCEH Memo 19-004](#) found here: <https://floridadep.gov/OSTDS-Memos>.

## What approved nitrogen-reducing systems can be used to meet the requirements?

There are three types of nitrogen-reducing systems that can be used to meet the new requirements:

1. In-ground nitrogen-reducing biofilters (INRBs);
2. [Florida-approved nitrogen-reducing \(NSF 245-certified\) aerobic treatment units](https://floridadep.gov/OSTDS-ATUS) (<https://floridadep.gov/OSTDS-ATUS>), and
3. [Florida-approved nitrogen-reducing Performance-Based Treatment Systems](https://floridadep.gov/OSTDS-PBTS) (<https://floridadep.gov/OSTDS-PBTS>).

For more information about the [three types of nitrogen-reducing systems](#), see: (<https://floridadep.gov/ENR-HB1379>).

## How can I find out more about these new requirements?

Please see our [website](https://floridadep.gov/OSTDS-ENR) (<https://floridadep.gov/OSTDS-ENR>) for more information. If you still have questions:

- General questions can be emailed to the Onsite Sewage Program at the Department of Environmental Protection at [OSTDS\\_Feedback@floridadep.gov](mailto:OSTDS_Feedback@floridadep.gov).
- Questions about a specific site or property should be directed to the applicable [County Health Department septic system program](https://www.floridahealth.gov/all-county-locations.html): (<https://www.floridahealth.gov/all-county-locations.html>).
- Specific questions regarding BMAPs or alternative restoration plans should be directed to the Water Quality Restoration Program at 850-245-8460 or via email: [BMAPPprogram@floridadep.gov](mailto:BMAPPprogram@floridadep.gov).
- All other questions can be directed to the DEP Onsite Sewage Program at 850-245-4070.