



DOCK PERMITTING IN FLORIDA



PERMIT APPLICATION FEE SCHEDULE

Online Self-Certification of Exemption is Free
(not available in aquatic preserve)

Exemption Verification = \$100

General Permit = \$250

Individual Environmental Resource Permit (ERP) = \$420

- 10 to 29 slips, \$1,500.
- 30 to 49 slips, \$5,000 to \$9,000.
- 50 slips or more, \$14,000.

(\$100 fee reduction for individual ERP permits if submitted using [DEP's E-Permitting System](#))

HOW TO APPLY

[DEP Business Portal](#)

- Online Self-Certification.
- [E-Application System](#).

[DEP Forms](#)

Submit to SED_Permitting@FloridaDEP.gov.

Exempt Docks - In [Outstanding Florida Waters](#)

- Up to 500 square feet of over-water surface area. One private dock (non-commercial).
- May be subject to aquatic preserve design criteria.

Exempt Docks - In Canals and Outside [Outstanding Florida Waters](#)

- Up to 1,000 square feet of over-water surface area.
- One private dock (non-commercial).

General Permits - Docks

- Up to 2,000 square feet of over-water surface area.
- One private dock (non-commercial).
- Designed for mooring of no more than two vessels.
- Access walkway elevated and handrailed over resources.
- Terminal platform cannot be located over resources.
- May be subject to aquatic preserve design criteria.

Individual Environmental Resource Permit (ERP) - Docks

- No specific limits to over-water surface area.
- Multiple docks, private or commercial.
- No specific limits to number of slips.
- Permit will specify design criteria (based on location and resources present) and include state lands authorization.

Note: Over-water area calculation includes roofs, boat-cover canopies, elevated platforms, decking, etc.

SOUTHEAST DISTRICT
Schedule your pre-application

[Map Direct](#)
Mapping application for ERP data:
Permits, Compliance, Outstanding Florida Waters, Aquatic Preserves, etc.



AQUATIC PRESERVE DESIGN CRITERIA FOR SINGLE-FAMILY DOCKS



LETTER OF CONSENT

- Written authorization to use state-owned submerged land is required.
- Must have satisfactory evidence of sufficient upland interest i.e., upland property deed, etc.
- All activities must be setback a minimum of 25 feet inside riparian lines. Exceptions:
 - Marginal docks must be set back minimum of 10 feet.
 - Shorelines < 65 feet.
 - Structures shared by two adjacent single-family parcels.
 - Setback waiver is obtained from the affected adjacent upland riparian owner.

Access Walkway: The part of a dock that connects a riparian owner's property to a terminal platform.

Terminal Platform: The part of a dock or pier, including finger piers, that is connected to the access walkway, is located at the terminus of the facility, and is designed to secure and load or unload a vessel or conduct other water dependent activities.

Resource Protection Areas (RPA)

RPA 1: Areas that have resources of the highest quality and condition for that area.

RPA 2: Areas that are in transition (with either declining RPA1 or pioneering RPA 3).

RPA 3: Areas characterized by the absence of any significant natural resources.

Learn more about [DEP's Aquatic Preserve Program](#).

PRIVATE RESIDENTIAL SINGLE-FAMILY DOCK

- One private dock at a single-family residence/dwelling unit.
- Designed to moor no more than two boats.
- Used for recreational or leisure purposes.

GENERAL STANDARDS AND CRITERIA - ALL DOCKS

- Cannot extend out more than 500 feet waterward of mean high water (MHW) or 20% the width of the waterbody, whichever is less.
- Design modifications are required to minimize impacts to resources (i.e., avoiding vegetation, minimizing shading, etc.).
- In an RPA 1 or 2:
 - Planking shall be no more than 8 inches wide and spaced no less than 1/2 inch apart.
 - Access walkway shall be elevated 5 feet above MHW.

SINGLE-FAMILY DOCK STANDARDS AND CRITERIA

- Access walkway limited to maximum width of 4 feet.
- Terminal platform size is limited to 160 square feet.
 - If terminal platform terminates in an RPA 1 or 2, the platform shall be elevated minimum of 5 feet above MHW (up to 25% can be lower to facilitate access to vessel).
- Dock shall extend out no more than to a depth of -4 feet MLW.
 - If water depth is -4 feet mean low water (MLW) at bulkhead, dock length from bulkhead is limited to 25 feet.
- Decking must ensure maximum light penetration.
- Docks in RPA 1 or 2 must have adequate water depths (minimum 1-foot clearance: vessel-top of resources at MLW).
- Slips may not, in whole or in part, be enclosed by walls.
- Roofs are allowed but cannot overhang more than 1 foot beyond the footprint of the lift and the boat stored on lift.
- Roofs are not included in terminal platform square footage.

Map Direct

Mapping application for ERP data:

[Aquatic Preserves, Permits, Compliance, Outstanding Florida Waters, etc.](#)