

Table of Contents

Surface Water Management Program3

 Program Description.....3

 What is Surface Water Management?3

 Types of Licenses and Permits4

 Surface Water Management License4

 General Surface Water Management License4

 State Environmental Resource Permits4

 Surface Water Management Application Checklist5

 Best Management Practices (including dewatering) on Construction Sites5

 Procedure for obtaining a release(s) of a Certificate(s) of Occupancy5

 Broward County and the National Flood Insurance Program5

 Flood Zones.....6

 Future Conditions Map Series.....6

 Application Forms:7

 Resources:7

 Frequently Asked Questions:7

Domestic Wastewater Program 11

 What is Domestic Wastewater? 11

 Delegations 11

 Reporting 12

 Application Forms: 12

 Resources: 12

 Frequently Asked Questions: 12

Non-Domestic Wastewater Program /National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Program 16

 Program Description..... 16

 NPDES..... 16

 Public Outreach 16

 Reporting Issues 18

 Application Forms: 18

Resources:	18
Frequently Asked Questions:	18
Cooling Towers	21
Application Forms:	21
Frequently Asked Questions:	21

Surface Water Management (SWM), Domestic Wastewater (DWW), Non-Domestic Wastewater (non-DWW), and Cooling Towers Programs

Surface Water Management Program

The Environmental Permitting Division's (EPD's) Surface Water Management Program's Mission:

Our mission is to protect the water resources of the County and to protect property from flooding through responsible licensing and encouraging effective uses of our water resources.

Program Description

The Surface Water Management Licensing Program regulates and licenses construction, operation, and maintenance of stormwater management systems to ensure they meet the required levels of flood protection and reduce/remove pollutants from stormwater runoff. The is responsible for licensing all construction of surface water management systems as required under Broward County Code of Ordinances (Code), Chapter 27, Article V, renewal of operation licenses, and certain environmental resource, wetland resource and surface water management permitting, compliance and enforcement responsibilities under Part IV, Ch. 373, F.S. and the rules promulgated thereto as set forth in the [2001 Delegation Agreement](#) among the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP), the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) and the Broward County Board of County Commissioners. The 2001 delegation agreement includes a list of areas for which Broward County has delegated authority for the Environmental Resource Permit (ERP) program, as well as a boundary map (Exhibit A) depicting the geographical area of said delegation.

Properly designed, constructed, operated, and maintained drainage systems remove pollutants from storm runoff prior to discharging into Broward County's surface waters and provide the required levels of flood protection in accordance with established criteria for proposed developments. This program also coordinates with other County agencies, the SFWMD, FDEP, and County and Municipal Building Departments as necessary during application reviews and/or construction compliance procedures.

What is Surface Water Management?

Many of the earlier developments in Broward County were built on filled wetlands with storm sewers or ditches draining directly from the streets to our local waterways. Houses and businesses often flooded and untreated storm runoff impacted water quality on our canals and rivers. Today, regulatory criteria for surface water management systems serving developments are set to provide adequate flood control (water quantity) and remove pollutants from storm runoff (water quality).

Surface water management (drainage) systems can contain storm drains, street gutters, weirs, sluice gates, dams, pumps, swales, exfiltration trenches, underground storage chambers, culverts, drainage wells, dry retention areas, lakes and wetlands. A combination of these facilities is typically utilized to design a surface water management system to meet water quality and water quantity criteria.

Types of Licenses and Permits

The EPD's Surface Water Management Program issues two types of licenses; a Surface Water Management License and a General Surface Water Management License as well as certain SFWMD and FDEP ERP 's. [ERP](#) application and [Broward County Surface Water Management License](#) application forms are available electronically in PDF.

Please see the surface water management license fee schedule and the SFWMD and/or FDEP fee schedule to determine the application fees for the license/permit for which you will be applying.

The EPD's Surface Water Management Program licenses new developments and major redevelopment projects in those areas of the county outside of independent drainage districts (See [map of drainage districts](#))

[Apply Online](#)

Surface Water Management License

Projects greater than or equal to one acre in size and/or with more than 10 residential parking spaces are required to be submitted for Surface Water Management License. The application information for this type of license request is evaluated within 30 days (or less) and could result in a request for additional information. The Broward County Code does not allow a surface water management license to be issued in the absence of reasonable assurances by the applicant that the surface water management system is in compliance with Chapter 27, Article V, of the Broward County Code. Complete applications are processed within 90 days (or less) from the day they are rendered complete. Note: The completion date is the day the final piece of information needed to complete the application for approval (or denial) is submitted by the applicant.

- View the [fee schedule](#)

General Surface Water Management License

Projects less than one acre in size qualify for a General License. These types of projects usually consist of small parking lot additions and/or minor drainage improvements. The fee for this license is \$375.00.

State Environmental Resource Permits

Please see the [2001 Delegation Agreement](#) for information on the types of permits for which Broward County has delegated authority.

- View the FDEP ERP [fee schedule](#)
- View the SFWMD ERP [fee schedule](#)

Surface Water Management Application Checklist

This [document](#) is a very useful guide and contains a list of items to be submitted with a new application.

Important! Topographic surveys of the proposed project must be done with the North American Datum (NAD 83) coordinates.

Hint: Submitting the appropriate information by using the checklist will minimize the number of comments generated by review staff. Non-binding pre-application meetings are welcomed and are particularly useful to those that are new to the Broward County Code. Usually, general concepts of the proposed surface water management system and application procedures are discussed.

Best Management Practices (including dewatering) on Construction Sites

The Florida Stormwater, Erosion, and Sedimentation Control Inspector's Manual contains BMPs for construction activities during and after construction to reduce erosion and sedimentation and to properly manage runoff for both storm water quantity and quality. This guide should be consulted prior to conducting construction or dewatering activities.

Note: The South Florida Water Management District should also be contacted at 1-800-432-2045 when dewatering is proposed to determine the consumptive use (water use) permit requirements for the proposed dewatering activity. The County's EPD should also be contacted at 954-519-1483 when dewatering is proposed.

Procedure for obtaining a release(s) of a Certificate(s) of Occupancy

Please review our inspection guideline brochure entitled "What to Expect When We Are Inspecting" added to the license document issued by Broward County Surface Water Management Licensing. Knowing what we are looking for should help you prepare for our inspection and expedite the receipt of your Certificate of Occupancy.

Broward County and the National Flood Insurance Program

With the cooperation of other County agencies, EPD assists in maintaining the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and the Community Rating System (CRS) in good standing which presently entitles policy holders in unincorporated Broward County to a 20% discount to their flood insurance premiums. The County's administration of its floodplain management regulations and other activities result in approximately \$65,000 in annual savings for its residents in the unincorporated area. Through the Surface Water Management Program and other governmental agencies, the 20% discount is maintained by several activities, including County drainage system maintenance, stricter regulatory standards, field visits, complaint resolution, flood zone inquiry requests, and community outreach projects such as the annual publication of the Flood News and Flood Zone Information brochures.

Flood Zones

The EPD provides flood zone information including Letters of Map Amendments (LOMA) and Letters of Map Revisions (LOMR) **exclusively** for the Unincorporated Areas of Broward County. Individuals seeking flood zone information outside Unincorporated Broward need to contact their municipalities. Please be aware that FEMA typically requires a thirty-day waiting period between the time flood insurance is purchased and the time coverage is in force.

For more information on the Broward County Surface Water Management Licensing Program, contact Environmental Program Manager, Johana Narvaez at jnarvaez@broward.org.

Future Conditions Map Series

Groundwater and 100-year flood elevations maps used in design need to account for expected future conditions for sea level and rainfall precipitation, so new infrastructure is protected from flood risks throughout its life cycle.

Why are Future Conditions Map Series necessary?

Future Conditions Map Series are necessary to:

1. Account for conditions expected during the lifecycle of new structures;
2. Provide an appropriate tool for long-term infrastructure and site planning;
3. Ensure the resiliency of current and future infrastructure investments by addressing future flood risk (resulting from rising groundwater table, projected sea level rise, and expected increases in rainfall intensity) in the design and licensing of surface water management systems in Broward County; and
4. Advance the resiliency standards and investments needed across the region, ultimately protecting both public and private infrastructure, preserving the quality of our environment, reducing flood insurance premiums, and ensuring a vibrant and competitive economy.

Which Future Conditions Maps are available?

For future conditions average wet season groundwater elevations:

- [Plate WM 2.2 - 2060 Future Conditions Average Wet Season Groundwater Elevation](#) (Effective July 1, 2017)
- [Plate WM 2.3 - 2070 Future Conditions Average Wet Season Groundwater Elevation](#) (Effective July 1, 2024)

For future conditions 100-year flood elevations:

- [Plate WM 13.1- Future Conditions 100-Year Flood Map 2060](#) (Effective July 1, 2021)

When are the Future Conditions Map Series used?

The applicable Future Conditions Map (Groundwater and 100-year flood elevations) must be used in all new applications for a surface water management license, applications for major redevelopment of existing sites, and applications for major modifications to existing surface water management license. The definition of major redevelopment can be found in Section 27-19 of the Broward County Code of Ordinances ("Code").

Antecedent conditions requirements for groundwater can be found in Section 27-200 (b) (5) a. 3. b) of the Code.

Flood protection requirements for the lowest habitable building finished floor elevation can be found in Sections 27-200 (b) (5) a. 3. c) and 27-200 (b) (5) a. 3. e) 4) (aa), of the Code. The 100-year flood elevations (from maps, permits, and calculations) are some of the criteria used to determine required finished floor elevations.

For more information on the Future Conditions Map Series contact Environmental Program Manager for Surface Water Management Licensing, Johana Narvaez at jnarvaez@broward.org.

Application Forms:

- [Broward County Surface Water Management License Application](#)
- [Application for Transfer of Surface Water Management License](#)
- [Forms of the Environmental Resource Permitting, State 404 Permitting, and Submerged Lands Programs](#)

Resources:

- [What to Expect When We Are Inspecting Surface Water Management Systems](#)
- [Florida Storm Water, Erosion, and Sedimentation Control Inspector's Manual](#)
- [Checklist For Surface Water Management License Application](#)
- [Broward County Environmental Resource Permits Delegation Agreement](#)

Frequently Asked Questions:

What is a Surface Water Management License?

A surface water management license is an authorization to construct or operate water management (drainage) systems. Surface water management systems combine natural features and engineered infrastructure to collect, convey, control, and treat rainwater and storm runoff.

These systems are designed to reduce flooding, prevent erosion, and remove pollutants, helping ensure that cleaner water reaches nearby rivers, lakes, and aquifers. To get more information on surface water management license contact the Broward County, Environmental Permitting Division, Surface Water Management Section at (954) 519-1483.

When do I need a Surface Water Management License?

A surface water management license is required for the construction or modification of development projects. No water management system within Broward County shall be excavated, created, constructed, altered, or abandoned unless a surface water management license has been obtained. Once the construction of the surface water management system is completed and certified, the surface water management construction license is converted to a surface water management operational license. This operational license lasts for the life of the project; however, it must be renewed every five (5) years. To get more information on licensing requirements contact the Broward County, Environmental Permitting Division, Surface Water Management Section at (954) 519-1483.

Where can I find the applications?

Applications for County licenses and State permits can be found at: [Forms](#).

How do I find out about Surface Water Management License regulations?

The Environmental Permitting Division is governed by Chapter 27 of the Broward County Code of Ordinances. Most of the Water Resources Management Regulations are contained in Article V of this chapter. Chapter 27 can be accessed [electronically](#).

Can I apply for a Surface Water Management License online?

Yes. Broward County has an [ePermits](#) portal. You need to create an account and select Surface Water Management License and then follow the steps in the process.

How can I pay the permitting fees?

Payments for license/permit applications may be submitted electronically through the [Broward ePermits](#) portal via credit cards or eChecks. Hard copy submittals can be mailed to: Broward County, 1 N University Drive, Mailbox 201, Plantation, FL 33324. To ensure processing, include a cover letter / transmittal identifying the license application number and the assigned reviewer.

Why does a Surface Water Management Operational License has to be renewed every five (5) years?

The renewal of a Surface Water Management Operational License is required to ensure that drainage systems are functioning exactly as originally designed. A Florida Registered Professional Engineer certifies that all components of the surface water management system authorized in the surface water management license document are in substantial conformance with the construction plans and specifications licensed by the Broward County Public Works and Environment Services Department (PWESD).

What are the requirements to renew a Surface Water Management Operational License?

1. A sketch showing the location of all components of the surface water management system;
2. A log of the operation and maintenance schedules for all components of the surface water management facilities;
3. A certification letter signed and sealed by a Florida Registered Professional Engineer certifying that all components of the surface water management system are functioning as originally licensed; and
4. Renewal fee.

To get more information on the requirements contact the Broward County, Environmental Permitting Division, Surface Water Management Section at (954) 519-1483.

When is a transfer of the existing Surface Water Management Construction/Operational License required?

When a property that has a surface water management license (in construction or operation) changes ownership, the new owner of a licensed project or facility must apply for a transfer of the license within thirty (30) days after sale or legal transfer. Until the new owner notifies the Environmental Permitting Division, Surface Water Management Section of the transfer and the name of the transferee, the transferor will remain liable for performance in accord with the license and will be liable for the violations caused by the transferee's activities until the transferee obtains a transfer of license and is operating in conformance with this chapter. The transferee will also be responsible for any violations of this chapter that result from the transferee's activities. The transferee shall comply with the transferor's original license conditions when the transferee has failed to obtain its own license.

What information is required to transfer a Surface Water Management License?

1. Transfer Application signed by the new owner;

2. Transfer Application fee; and
3. Copy of new warranty deed.

To get more information on the requirements contact the Broward County, Environmental Permitting Division, Surface Water Management Section at (954) 519-1483.

In what instances is a Property Owner's Association (POA) required for issuance, renewal, or transfer of a Surface Water Management License?

A POA is required when more than two properties that are owned by different entities share a surface water management (drainage) system.

Domestic Wastewater Program

The Domestic Wastewater Program, within the boundaries of Broward County, enforces Chapter 27, Article V of the Broward County Pollution Control Code, titled "WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT" [Ordinance](#), and Chapter 62-604 of the Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.) as delegated by the [Florida Department of Environmental Protection \(FDEP\)](#). Water usage such as flushing toilet, washing hands, doing the dishes or laundry, generates wastewater flows conveyed to the WWTP via the domestic wastewater collection/transmission system. A permit/license is required to construct, extend, or alter that sewer system.

What is Domestic Wastewater?

Every time you flush your toilet, take a shower, wash your hands, turn on the dishwasher or do your laundry, you create domestic wastewater.

Before 1950, all domestic wastewater was disposed of through septic systems or direct discharge of treated waste to area waterways. Today, while some Broward County residents still use septic tanks, most households are connected through the sanitary sewers to a local utility's sewage treatment plant. Maintenance of the lateral pipe running from the home to sewer service and/or of a septic system is generally the property owner's responsibility.

The Domestic Wastewater Ordinance Regulates the Following:

- Construction, extension or alteration/modification of a sanitary sewer collection/transmission system including sanitary sewer manholes, gravity sewer pipes, pump stations, force mains, reuse (reclaimed) transmission lines and distribution systems.
- Construction, modification or operation of any wastewater treatment plant.

Exemptions from Section 27-194, County Code of Ordinances

- **Sewer laterals:** Contact your building department and local wastewater utility by locating the customer service contact information on your billing statements. The Environmental Permitting Division can be also contacted at (954) 519-1483 for further assistance in verifying the sewer service provider.
- **Septic systems:** Contact the [Broward County Branch of the Florida Department of Health](#).

Delegations

Pursuant to the 1997 Specific Operating Agreement (aka. Delegation Agreement), FDEP delegates to the Broward County Domestic Wastewater Program the authority to issue and deny state permits for sewage collection/transmission facilities within Broward County, except for sewage collection and transmission facilities larger than 12 inches in diameter (and appurtenant pump stations) for which the

county is the owner or permit applicant.

[Delegation Agreement - FDEP and Broward County Domestic Wastewater Program](#)

Reporting

To report sanitary sewer overflows (spills), sewer malfunctions or any other violations, the available options are as follows:

- Phone: (954) 519-1499, (954) 831-4000 or 311
- Online: [MyBroward](#)

Apply Online

Application Forms:

- [Broward County Application to Construct a Wastewater Collection/Transmission System](#)
- [Notification/Application for Constructing a Domestic Wastewater Collection/Transmission System Florida DEP Form 62-604.300\(3\)\(a\) eff. October 4, 2021](#)
- [Request for Approval to Place a Domestic Wastewater Collection/Transmission System into Operation Florida DEP Form 62-604.300\(3\)\(b\) eff. October 4, 2021](#)
- [Broward County Certification of Wastewater Construction, page 8, Addendum to State Form 62-604.300\(3\)\(b\), Rev. 09/2023](#)
- [Application to Construct or Modify a Wastewater Reclamation \(Reuse\) Facility, two \(2\) pages](#)
- [Application to Construct or Modify a Wastewater Treatment Plant, two \(2\) pages](#)
- [Application to Transfer a Domestic Wastewater Construction License \(1\) page \(PDF\)](#)

Resources:

- [How to Apply for a Domestic Wastewater Collection/Transmission System Construction License](#)
- [Guide for Consulting Engineers](#)

Frequently Asked Questions:

What is Domestic Wastewater?

Every time you flush your toilet, wash your hands, turn on the dishwasher or do your laundry, you create domestic wastewater. Before 1950, all domestic wastewater was disposed of through

septic systems or direct discharge of treated waste to area waterways. Today, while some Broward residents still use septic tanks, most households are connected through the sanitary sewers to a local utility's sewage treatment plant. Maintenance of the lateral pipe running from the home to sewer service and/or of a septic system is generally the homeowner's responsibility (Permitting information: laterals - contact your local wastewater utility; septic systems - contact the Broward County Branch of the Florida Department of Health at (954) 467-4700 for maintenance information or a construction permit). The Environmental Permitting Division's Domestic Wastewater Program licenses all facilities downstream of the lateral including sanitary sewer pipes, pumps, and treatment plants in Broward County.

Who handles my sewer service?

In Broward County, 28 different utilities direct domestic wastewater (sewage) to 17 Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP).

What is the difference between sanitary sewers and stormwater sewers?

Under the streets of Broward County is a maze of pipes. Each pipe is specially coded for its function and sized to meet the service needs of a given area. Sanitary sewers convey wastewater (domestic sewage, wash water, and anything else you put down the drain in your home) to a local utility's sewage treatment plant. A pipe from your home (lateral) connects to a larger pipe (gravity main) in the street, alley or other utility easement. Maintenance of the lateral is generally the homeowner's responsibility. The contents of the gravity main flow to a lift station which pumps the wastewater into a force main. Under pressure, the sewage is conveyed to the treatment plant. The system is constructed to protect the public health by preventing untreated sewage from leaking out into the environment.

Unlike the sanitary sewer system, the stormwater sewer system is an open system designed to collect water and prevent flooding. Grates, gutters and outfalls in the roads convey rainfall to large gravity pipes which eventually lead to a wet retention area, canal, lake or other surface water body. Some municipalities do use pumps in low-lying areas to move standing water and prevent flooding.

The sanitary sewer system and the stormwater sewer system are designed for a specific purpose, are meant to be kept separate, and will not function properly if foreign objects are introduced. Occasionally, homeowner's sewage pipes are illegally connected to the stormwater system. This leads to pollution of our waterways. Introduction of stormwater into the sanitary sewer system overwhelms the treatment plant, reduces the effectiveness of the treatment and threatens public health and it is illegal. Never dispose of debris or chemicals down your home drains. Likewise, never dump or dispose of anything down a storm drain as it is against the County Code to discharge into waters of the County. For more information about safe disposal of most household

chemicals, contact Waste and Recycling Services (WRS) at their Household Hazardous Waste HOTLINE at (954) 765-4999.

When is a Domestic Wastewater Collection/Transmission System license required?

Aside from the exemptions provided by the Section 27-194(a) of the Broward County Code of Ordinances, construction, extension or alteration of a WWTP, a reuse distribution system or a sanitary sewer collection/transmission system (gravity sewer, force main, pump station, or vacuum sewer system) requires a county license. A state permit is also required for sewer activities delegated to Broward County pursuant to a Specific Operating Agreement between Broward County and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.

Applications

The Domestic Wastewater Program licenses the following activities:

1. Construction of Domestic Wastewater Collection/Transmission Systems;
2. Completion of Construction of Domestic Wastewater Collection/Transmission Systems;
3. Notice of Intent to use General Permit for Wastewater Collection/Transmission Systems; and
4. Construction/Modification of a Wastewater Treatment Plant or a Wastewater Reclamation (Reuse) Facility.

Those interested in obtaining a permit for reuse distribution systems should fill out the standard permit for collection/transmission systems. Guidance documents on completing the Wastewater Collection/Transmission System Construction License Application and Notification Procedures for Reporting Wastewater Facility Spills are also available. Applications can be found at: [Forms](#).

How do I find out about your regulations?

The Environmental Permitting Division is governed by [Chapter 27](#) of the Broward County Code of Ordinances. Most of the Water Resources Management Regulations are contained in Article V of this chapter.

How can I pay the permitting fees?

Payments for license/permit applications may be submitted electronically through the [Broward ePermits](#) portal via credit cards or eChecks. Hard copy submittals can be mailed to: Broward County, 1 N University Drive, Mailbox 201, Plantation, FL 33324. To ensure processing, include a cover letter / transmittal identifying the license application number and the assigned reviewer.

Can I pay an expediting fee to speed up the permitting process?

No.

Local Utility Flows

New developments and redevelopment projects in Broward County must make a domestic wastewater capacity reservation at the local utility and Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) prior to building new structures. Development interests need to closely coordinate with the utility in their service area to determine if additional treatment or disposal capacity will be available in the future.

Non-Domestic Wastewater Program /National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Program

The Non-Domestic Wastewater Program enforces Chapter 27, Article V, of the Broward County Pollution Control Code, titled "Water Resource Management" throughout all municipalities in Broward County. The NPDES Program is tasked to implement the state regulations set forth in the NPDES permit issued to Broward County and its co-licensees, enforceable in all municipalities in Broward County with the exceptions of Fort Lauderdale, Hollywood, Hillsboro, and Lazy Lake.

[Read more about the ordinance.](#)

Program Description

The Non-Domestic Wastewater Program is responsible for licensing all facilities with non-domestic direct discharges entering Broward County's ground and surface waters.

No new non-domestic discharges have been allowed in Broward County since 1984 except for a limited number of facilities who have successfully petitioned for a variance from the Broward County Code of Ordinances. A variance is required to receive a license for any new non-domestic direct discharge. Following the successful petition for a variance, the business owner may apply for a license.

NPDES

Federal, State, and local governments require the reduction of illicit discharges from industrial and commercial facilities with the use of best management practices so that our surface waters remain clean, swimmable, and fishable. The NPDES Program staff coordinate the County's [NPDES Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System \(MS4\)](#) Permit with 26 municipalities, FDOT, and Broward Municipal Service District (BMSD). This storm water program is designed to identify urban non-point source pollution and abate sources through Best Management Practices.

The MS4 Permit was first issued in December 1996 and summarizes the program activities for the next five years. The current Broward County MS4 Permit (Cycle 4) was issued on January 5, 2017, and a new permit from Florida DEP is still pending.

Public Outreach

Water Matters Day

The next Water Matters Day will be held on Saturday, March 13th, 2027, from 8:00am to 1:00pm at Tree Tops Park (3900 SW 100th Ave, Davie, FL 33328)

Water Matters Day brings interactive educational booths and displays, a tree giveaway for Broward residents, Mini BioBlitz, compost giveaway, food trucks, children's activities and more. Our schedule of events features award ceremonies for Broward County's Emerald Awards and Broward County Public Schools' WMD Student Contests.

We will have over 55 exhibitors and booths helping residents and visitors learn about water conservation techniques, smart irrigation, native landscaping, and what role they play in protecting and conserving our water supplies.

Scoop the Poop Campaign

There are many things we can do to prevent water pollution and enhance our water quality.

- Be part of the solution by helping us understand where our outreach efforts need to be concentrated in the County. Fill out and share our [Pet Waste Survey](#) with neighbors, colleagues, friends, and family members.
- Educate and inspire others in your community to pick up after their pets.
- [Pledge](#) to Scoop the Poop.
- Attend our events throughout the year.

Fats, Rags Oil and Grease (FROG)

Help prevent sewer clogs in your neighborhood

Sewage is used water and wastes discharged by a community and collected from the drains of sinks, showers, toilets and laundry facilities and flows into sewer lines, or collection systems, from the drains in homes and businesses. From the sewer lines, it is then transported to a sewage treatment facility.

Sewers back up when sewage collection lines get clogged by items flushed down toilets and drains such as Fats, Rags Oil and Grease (FROG) that get caught in the line and plugged it up. In addition to the costly repairs, sewer backups are messy, foul-smelling, and pose a serious public health threat.

- Only feces, urine and toilet paper should be flushed down the toilet.
- Other drains should be only used to dispose of used water and soaps from cleaning.

Never flush down the toilet or drain

- Fats, cooking oil or grease
- Motor oil
- Disposable diapers and baby wipes
- Disinfectant wipes
- Cleaning cloths
- Big chunks of garbage
- Cat litter including “flushable” cat litter
- Feminine napkins, tampons and applicators
- Dye (hair /clothing) or tanning solutions

- Flammable products (lighter fluid, acetone)
- Acidic and toxic substances

Proper Disposal Tips

- Throw bulky waste materials in trash.
- Freeze small amounts of fats, oils and grease in a container with a tight-sealing lid and dispose of in trash.
- Mix oil with an absorbent material such as coffee grounds, place in a tightly-sealed container and dispose of in trash.
- Use a strainer in your sink to catch scraps.
- Cover drains with fine screen or catch basket.

Reporting Issues

You can report evidence of contaminants being poured down storm drain, or any other violation regarding non-domestic wastewater or stormwater.

Reporting is simple and can be done via:

- Phone: (954) 519-1499, (954) 831-4000 or 311
- Online: [MyBroward](#)

Apply Online

Application Forms:

- [Application For License To Operate a Direct Discharge From Non-Domestic \(Industrial\) Activity, 5 pages](#)
- [Application For Renewal License To Operate a Direct Discharge From Non-Domestic \(Industrial\) Activity, 5 pages](#)

Resources:

- [Florida Department of Environmental Protection Watershed Management](#)
- [United States Environmental Protection Agency Stormwater](#)

Frequently Asked Questions:

How do I know if I need a non-Domestic wastewater (non-DWW) license?

Any person operating a facility that discharges non-domestic wastewater to ground, ground water, or surface water shall obtain a county license. Direct, non-domestic discharges are restricted as described in [Section 27-193\(b\)\(3\)a](#).

How do I acquire a non-domestic discharge license?

Before being issued a license to operate a direct discharge from non-domestic (industrial) activity, the applicant must have been granted a variance in the form of a final order issued by the hearing examiner. No variance from the terms of Chapter 27 will be authorized unless the applicant meets all the requirements found in [Sec. 27-13. - Requirements for variances](#). Upon receipt of a final order the applicant must apply for and obtain a non-domestic discharge license within 30 days of issuance. The application can be found at: [Forms](#).

Are there any exemptions from the requirement of obtaining a non-DWW license?

Discharges exempt from the requirement of obtaining a non-DWW license include the following:

- Water line flushing;
- Landscape irrigation;
- Diverted stream flows;
- Rising ground waters;
- Uncontaminated ground water infiltration (as defined at 40 CFR 35.2005(20)) to separate storm sewers;
- Uncontaminated pumped ground water;
- Discharges from potable water sources;
- Foundation drains;
- Air conditioning condensate;
- Irrigation water;
- Springs;
- Water from crawl space pumps;
- Footing drains;
- Lawn watering;
- Individual residential car washing;
- Flows from riparian habitats and wetlands;
- Dechlorinated swimming pool discharges;

- Street wash waters;
- Discharges or flows from emergency firefighting activities;
- Reclaimed water line flushing authorized pursuant to a permit issued under the authority of Rule 62-610, F.A.C.; and
- Flows from uncontaminated roof drains.

Is there a fee for a non-domestic discharge license?

Fee Schedule Section 27-201(b)

(a) License fee based on designed wastewater flow (gallons per day).

(1) Up to and including 5,000	\$720.00
(2) 5,001 to 10,000	\$1,650.00
(3) 10,001 to 25,000	\$2,850.00
(4) Greater than 25,000	\$3,825.00

Is there an annual renewal requirement?

The non-DWW license requires an annual renewal application with the associated fee. The fee shall remain the same with each renewal as the flow rate is required to remain constant. Any deviation from the original terms of the variance final order will require a new variance and new non-DWW license. Variances are issued for a limited time not to exceed five (5) years, at which time, a new variance application will need to be submitted and is subject to the variance proceedings. A non-DWW license will not be reissued after the variance has expired, unless a new final order is received for the requested non-domestic discharge.

How can I pay the permitting fees?

Payments for license/permit applications may be submitted electronically through the [Broward ePermits](#) portal via credit cards or eChecks. Hard copy submittals can be mailed to: Broward County, 1 N University Drive, Mailbox 201, Plantation, FL 33324. To ensure processing, include a cover letter / transmittal identifying the license application number and the assigned reviewer.

Cooling Towers

Broward County adopted a cooling tower water use efficiency ordinance in 2012. A cooling tower is a unit that recirculates water in order to cool down the interior of a building. Cooling towers account for 80% of water consumption in commercial and residential structures. Anti-scaling chemical treatment systems reduce replacement water and operation costs over traditional technologies. A license is required to meet County and Building Code water use efficiency standards.

The cooling tower requirements can be found in [Broward County Code of Ordinance](#) Chapter 34, Article VII Cooling Tower Water Use Efficiency. Property owners shall obtain a cooling tower license to operate a new cooling tower including tower replacement after May 31st, 2012. Licenses shall be renewed annually on or before March 31st each year.

Application Forms:

- [Application for Cooling Tower License, 2 pages](#)
- [Application for Cooling Tower License Renewal, 2 pages](#)

Frequently Asked Questions:

Why am I required to get a cooling tower license?

Facilities that have completed a cooling tower replacement or new installation after May 31, 2012, must obtain a Cooling Tower License within twelve (12) months following completion, in accordance with Section 34-168 of the Broward County Code of Ordinances.

Is it a one-time application?

Cooling Tower licenses shall be renewed annually on or before March 31st each year or you will receive a citation.

Where can I find the applications?

Applications for new Cooling Tower licenses or renewal of Cooling Tower licenses can be found at: [Forms](#).

How can I pay the permitting fees?

Payments for license/permit applications may be submitted electronically through the [Broward ePermits](#) portal via credit cards or eChecks. Hard copy submittals can be mailed to: Broward County, 1 N University Drive, Mailbox 201, Plantation, FL 33324. To ensure processing, include a cover letter / transmittal identifying the license application number.