

Frequently Asked Questions about the No Fee Noticed General Permit for New Private Residential Irrigation Wells Installed After July 1, 2026

What is a No Fee Noticed General Permit?

- The No Fee Noticed General Permit is a type of authorization to use water from your new residential irrigation water well. This authorization is needed when a homeowner who is otherwise connected to a utility for drinking water seeks to install a new private residential irrigation well after July 1, 2026.

This general permit is free to file and requires that the homeowner acknowledge the permit's requirements, including the requirement to install a leak detection device and a water conservation device.

Why is the No Fee Noticed General Permit required?

- Water conservation is a responsibility we all share to protect and preserve our natural resources. The water conservation objectives associated with the No Fee Noticed General Permit for private residential irrigation wells are part of a larger plan to protect and restore the Lower Santa Fe and Ichetucknee Rivers and springs.

How do I know if I am required to get a No Fee Noticed General Permit?

- The No Fee Noticed General Permit potentially applies to you if you are having a residential irrigation well installed that will withdraw water from the Floridan aquifer; you are connected to a public water supply utility for your drinking water; and you are in Alachua, Baker, Bradford, Clay, Columbia, Duval, Flagler, Gilchrist, Hamilton, Nassau, Putnam, St. Johns, Suwannee, or Union Counties.

What if my home is not connected to a utility for drinking water?

- This permit is not required for homes that use their own private well for indoor uses, such as bathing, cleaning, and drinking.

How do I file the No Fee Noticed General Permit?

- Your licensed water well contractor is authorized to file the notification at your request or you may submit the form yourself electronically or by mail.

	Suwannee River Management District	St. Johns River Water Management District
Counties	Alachua, Baker, Bradford, Columbia, Gilchrist, Hamilton, Suwannee, Union	Alachua, Baker, Clay, Duval, Flagler, Nassau, Putnam, St. Johns
Mailing address for paper submittal See form here: https://flrules.org/Gateway/reference.asp?No=Ref-18920	9225 CR 49 Live Oak, FL 32060	P.O. Box 1429 Palatka, FL 32178-1429
Website for electronic submittal	https://permitting.sjrwmd.com/srep/#/ep	https://permitting.sjrwmd.com/ep/#/ep

What are the effective dates of the permit?

- The authorization is effective upon submission of a completed form and will last for 10 years.

What if I sell my house?

- The authorization runs with the property. You are not responsible for the permit after you sell and do not need to submit anything to the District. When the authorization expires, the District will contact the current homeowner to renew.

In addition to leak detection and water conservation devices, what other requirements am I required to agree to?

- All other requirements of a General Permit are required for all residential irrigation, whether supplied by a utility or water well, including any requirements declared during a Water Shortage Order. By acknowledging these existing requirements, such as days of the week restrictions, this form serves to educate homeowners that irrigation is limited to reasonable use.

What leak detection devices would meet the requirements of the No Fee Noticed General Permit?

- Leak detection devices include flow meter sensors (also known as irrigation flow sensors), variable frequency drives, or other devices designed to detect leaks.

Flow Meter Sensors detect when water is flowing and transmit signals to indicating devices. They can use that information to detect unscheduled, low- or high-flow events. Many flow sensors with indicating devices can also measure the flow rate and the amount of water being delivered to an irrigation system.

They detect hidden leaks, including underground leaks, and shut off water if a leak is detected.

This can prevent costly damage to your home or lawn and help protect our water supply.

Estimated cost: \$500 per device and between \$500 and \$1,000 for installation

Variable Frequency Drives (VFDs) are electric controllers that vary the speed of the pump motor, allowing the pump to respond smoothly and efficiently to fluctuations in flow and/or pressure demand.

They are mainly used to control pump flow and pressure more efficiently than simply turning pumps on and off, ensuring constant pressure and pumping only what your well can manage.

This can result in delivering only what your irrigation system needs to function at optimal efficiency. You'll see dramatically higher energy savings because you're preventing over-pumping and over-pressurizing your irrigation equipment.

Estimated cost: Between \$3,000 and \$10,000 per device and between \$1,000 and \$3,000 for installation. The rule does not require the more costly VFDs to be installed. Rather, if a homeowner installs one, it can constitute compliance with the requirement without the need to install a second device.

What water conservation devices meet the requirements of the No Fee Noticed General Permit?

- A water conservation device, such as smart controllers, must be installed in addition to the rain shut-off device required by statute.

Smart controllers are advanced, automatic watering devices that utilize real-time local weather data, soil moisture sensors, and site-specific conditions (soil type, plant type, shade) to optimize irrigation schedules, reducing water use. Examples of different types of Smart controllers include the following:

- **Weather-based smart controllers** adjust watering schedules based on local weather data, such as temperature, humidity, rainfall, and wind speed. They often calculate evapotranspiration (ET)—the amount of water evaporated from the soil and used by plants—to determine precise water needs.

- **Soil Moisture-Based Controllers (Sensors)** use probes installed in the turf to measure the actual volumetric moisture content in the soil. The controller prevents irrigation cycles if the soil moisture is already sufficient.

These controllers are unlike traditional clock-based timers as they automatically adjust run times, often allowing remote management via smartphone apps. They can prevent overwatering, reduce the system's overall run time, and simplify control of the irrigation system with the use of a phone app.

Estimated cost: Between \$100 and \$300 per device and between \$100 and \$400 for installation