



LAKE COUNTY SEPTIC TO DISTRIBUTED WASTEWATER TREATMENT SYSTEM APPLICATION

PROPERTY OWNER / APPLICANT NAME: _____
(All Property Owners having an interest must be listed) (Hereinafter "Property Owner")

SERVICE ADDRESS: _____

BILLING ADDRESS: _____

APPLICANT'S HOME PHONE #: _____ **Email Address:** _____

DRIVER'S LICENSE #: _____ **STATE:** _____ **DATE OF BIRTH:** _____

Lake County has obtained funding from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) to start a Septic to Distributed Wastewater Treatment System Program ("DWTS Program"). The DWTS Program will cover the cost of the initial screening, septic system inspection, septic tank abandonment, electrical service connection, new distributed wastewater treatment unit installation, and sod or mulch (at the Property Owner option) to cover the excavated area.

This is a voluntary program. An interested Property Owner who signs up for this program can have their existing drainfield inspected, septic tank abandoned, and a new distributed wastewater treatment unit installed by Lake County, or its agents. The FDEP considers this service to be equivalent to sewer treatment but does not require a piped connection to a central treatment plant. Instead, the treatment is provided inside a miniature treatment unit owned, operated, and maintained by Lake County, or its agents. The fully treated water is safely discharged underground, utilizing a properly designed drainfield.

However, if the condition of the existing septic system or electrical system requires improvements, or if the location of the work is significantly obstructed by landscaping or hardscaping, additional costs may be incurred. Additional costs, if any, will be disclosed to the Property Owner in writing, following an inspection. The Property Owner will be under no obligation to proceed until such time as the Property Owner has approved and submitted payment for any additional costs.

Once installed, the treatment unit will be serviced and maintained by Lake County or its agents for a monthly fee of \$56.65 which will be collected as part of a Municipal Services Benefit Unit (MSBU) on the property tax bill beginning October 2025. The fee will increase a minimum of 3% annually based on inflation and operating costs. Beyond the monthly fee, there are no other ongoing financial obligations associated with this DWTS Program, unless the Property Owner negligently or intentionally damages the treatment unit or drainfield. A Property Owner must pay in advance, as a lump sum, a connection fee equating to \$56.65 per month times the number of months covering the gap between installation and the time in which the services fee can be placed on the property tax bill. Payment will be due as a lump sum payment prior to installation of the Distributed Wastewater Treatment Unit (DWTU). (For example, if the Department of Public Works Septic to Distributed Wastewater Treatment System Application Version

04/03/2025 unit is installed in July 2024, the connection fee will be \$793.10 (14 months [August 2024 – September 2025] x \$56.65 per month).

ONCE AN MSBU IS IMPOSED FOR THE SERVICES IDENTIFIED HEREIN ON THE PROPERTY TAX BILL, PROPERTY OWNERS ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT FAILURE TO PAY THE ASSESSMENT WILL CAUSE A TAX CERTIFICATE TO BE ISSUED AGAINST THE PROPERTY WHICH MAY RESULT IN A LOSS OF TITLE.

Conversion and Installation:

Conversion to a Distributed Wastewater Treatment System (DWTS) is accomplished by installing a DWTU in place of an existing septic tank. This involves several elements common to all DWTS Program participants and some optional elements, depending on the property conditions observed during the inspection. At a minimum, the following steps will take place:

1. A licensed electrician will install a dedicated circuit and a service disconnect box on the exterior wall of the home closest to the location of the treatment unit.
2. A utility locate will be performed to locate primary underground utility lines.
3. The existing septic tank will be pumped out and either abandoned in place or removed entirely. Abandonment involves the crushing of the septic tank and leveling the hole with clean dirt. If removal is required, the existing tank will be excavated, removed, and hauled away.
4. A new DWTU will be installed underground next to, or in place of, the old septic tank and plumbed into the home's waste line.
5. The treatment unit will be connected to electrical service, powered up and tested.
6. The installation site will be leveled and sodded or mulched, at the Property Owner's option.

Typically, the above installation steps will take less than a day, and the period during which the home is without the use of plumbing fixtures is usually less than three (3) hours.

I understand and agree that I am responsible for all applicable charges associated with the service requested and will continue to be responsible for ongoing DWTS fees so long as the system remains in place. I have been provided with an estimate of the additional costs that are required to be paid by the Property Owner, if any. I understand that Lake County will not be responsible for these additional costs. Further, as the Property Owner, I shall be responsible for any costs associated with damage to the DWTS or DWTU caused by negligence or intentional acts of the Property Owner, its invitees, and licensees.

I FURTHER UNDERSTAND THAT ONCE THE DISTRIBUTED WASTEWATER TREATMENT SYSTEM IS INSTALLED, THE SYSTEM MAY NOT BE DISCONNECTED OR REMOVED, AND SHALL BECOME A PERMANENT FIXTURE ON THE PROPERTY, UNLESS THE PROPERTY CONNECTS TO MUNICIPAL WASTEWATER SYSTEM.

Installation Authorization:

Property Owner's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Co-Owner's Signature (if applicable): _____ Date: _____

*If additional Property Owner's signatures are required, add an additional page and attach to this Application.

*******DO NOT WRITE BELOW THIS LINE, FOR OFFICE USE ONLY *******

Deposit Card #: _____ Work Order #: _____ Rcvd by: _____ Acct #: _____



LAKE COUNTY

DISTRIBUTED WASTEWATER TREATMENT SYSTEM HOLD HARMLESS AGREEMENT

In consideration of the request for the initiation of service provided by LAKE COUNTY, the undersigned Property Owner and LAKE COUNTY agree upon the following terms:

1. Prior to the initiation of CONVERSION AND INSTALLATION the Distributed Wastewater Treatment System (DWTS), the Property Owner agrees to fully inspect the premises at the above location to determine that all taps and faucets are closed and that the service lines are not broken, punctured, or otherwise obstructed.
2. The Property Owner understands that LAKE COUNTY is relying upon the Property Owner to conduct this inspection prior to the initiation of service, and it is agreed that the Property Owner will indemnify and hold harmless LAKE COUNTY and its agents from any damages that may result from defects of the nature described above and also from any other damages which are the result of the Property Owner's own negligence.
3. It is further agreed that any investigation or inspection that may be conducted by the agents of LAKE COUNTY prior to initiation of service, will not amount to an undertaking of any responsibility or liability and such inspection will not be considered a waiver of the County's reliance upon the Property Owner's agreement to fully inspect the premises and to indemnify and hold harmless the County from any damages that may be subject to the above conditions. For a Property Owner who has an irrigation system, or secondary or auxiliary utilities, LAKE COUNTY and its agents are not responsible for damage to such irrigation system or utilities.
4. An initiation of service fee will be assessed and provided with the application for service. LAKE COUNTY will not connect the service until the necessary application has been completed and any deposit is paid, or other contractual arrangement has been accepted. Upon acceptance thereof by LAKE COUNTY, the application constitutes a service contract based upon these and other LAKE COUNTY rules, regulations, rates, and policies and becomes effective at the time the Property Owner is connected to LAKE COUNTY system.
5. NOTICE: The Property Owner shall always remain the owner of the drain field and is responsible for any repair or replacement of the drain field. The drain field shall be located to be easily accessible for repair and maintenance by the owner. It is recommended that the owner does not plant landscaping within fifteen (15) feet of the drain field or DWTS Treatment Tank structure.

6. Duly authorized agents of LAKE COUNTY shall always have access to utility-owned facilities on the customer's premises for the purpose of installing, maintaining, inspecting, sampling, and removing utility equipment and shall have access to the premises during normal working hours for these purposes. Failure to provide such access may be grounds for discontinuance of service and relocation of equipment at the customer's expense. Neither LAKE COUNTY nor its agents shall be liable for trespass during the performance of these activities. The customer shall grant or cause to be granted to LAKE COUNTY, without cost to LAKE COUNTY, all rights, easements, permits and privileges which in the opinion of LAKE COUNTY are necessary for the rendering of service to the customer.
7. **WARNING! TO PREVENT MALFUNCTION OF YOUR DWTS UNIT, DO NOT DISCHARGE THE FOLLOWING MATERIALS INTO TOILETS OR DRAINS:** Plastic, cloth, cigarette stubs, paper towels and tissue paper, acids or caustics, soaps or cleaning materials which have a high or low pH factor (use low suds detergents if possible), disposable diapers, rubber products, automatic toilet disinfection products, excess grease or fatty materials, motor oils, grease, kerosene, gasoline, paints, or backwash from water softeners or reverse osmosis systems. Any Property Owner caused damage to the treatment unit from the discharge of materials that cause a malfunction of the treatment unit will be repaired by LAKE COUNTY or its agents, and the cost for such repairs will be assessed and appear on the next customer bill.
8. **WARNING! TO FUNCTION PROPERLY, THE DWTS UNIT MUST BE SERVICED ONLY BY A QUALIFIED PROFESSIONAL. ATTEMPTED REPAIR BY ANYONE OTHER THAN A QUALIFIED PROFESSIONAL MAY CAUSE SERIOUS INJURY OR DEATH AND MAY CAUSE DAMAGE TO THE UNIT OR OTHER PROPERTY.** Any Property Owner caused damage from such attempted repair to the treatment unit or control panel will be repaired by LAKE COUNTY or its agents, and the cost for such repairs will be assessed to the Property Owner. If the invoice is not paid within thirty (30) days of receipt, the cost of repairs will be included as part of the MSBU on the Property Owner's tax bill.
9. **WARNING! DO NOT DISCONNECT THE POWER TO THE DWTS UNIT. DO NOT ALLOW CHILDREN TO PLAY ON OR AROUND THE UNIT. DO NOT OPEN THE CONTROL PANEL.** The treatment unit requires access to power to operate and communicate with the LAKE COUNTY's utility operators or their agents. Power disruption will be immediately reported and may trigger a site visit by a repair technician. Any Property Owner caused damage to the treatment unit or control panel will be repaired by LAKE COUNTY or its agents, and the cost for such repairs will be assessed to the Property Owner. If the invoice is not paid within thirty (30) days of receipt, the cost of repairs will be included as part of the MSBU on the Property Owner's tax bill.

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

PROPERTY OWNER'S PRINTED NAME _____

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

PROPERTY OWNER'S PRINTED NAME _____

*All Property Owners having an interest in the Property must execute this document.
Additional pages may be added, if needed.

LAKE COUNTY REPRESENTATIVE _____