WATER WELL CONTRACTOR LICENSING FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What does a Water Well Contractor License allow you to do?

A Florida Water Well Contractor's License allows an individual to own a well drilling business; operate a water well drilling business; obtain required permits; construct, repair, modify, or abandon wells; and hire drillers.

Where can I get a State of Florida Water Well Contractor License?

Water Well Contractor Licenses are issued by the five water management districts (WMD): South Florida WMD in West Palm Beach, St. Johns River WMD in Palatka, Southwest Florida WMD in Tampa, Suwannee River WMD in Live Oak, and the Northwest Florida WMD in Havana, FL.

What qualifications do I need to become a licensed water well contractor?

- 1. A water well contractor license applicant must be at least 18 years old; and
- 2. Have at least two years of experience constructing, repairing or abandoning water wells as a major activity; and
- 3. Provide evidence of the work experience by submitting a letter attesting to the applicant's experience from three of the following persons
 - a water well contractor,
 - · a well driller.
 - a water well parts and equipment vendor,
 - or a well inspector employed by a government agency; and
- 4. Submit a list of at least ten water wells that the applicant has constructed, repaired, or abandoned within the preceding 5 years. Of these wells, at least seven must have been constructed, as defined in s. 373.303(2), by the applicant. The list shall also include:
 - the name and address of the owner or owners of each well,
 - the well location,
 - the primary use of the well,
 - · the approximate depth of the well, and
 - the diameter of each well that the applicant has constructed; and
- 5. The applicant requires 12 Continuing Education credits from the Florida Water Well Administrator. There are two types of credits; Rules/Regulation and Safety/Business. Please note that 6 out of the 12 credits must be in Rules/Regulations, no more than 6 hours may be in business/safety practices and you can receive a maximum of 3 hours online.

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How do I get 12 Continuing Education Units (CEUs)?

Classes are held all over Florida. Information concerning CEUs may be obtained by contacting the Florida Water Well Administrator (FWWA) at 325 John Knox Road, L-103 Tallahassee, FL 32303. Phone: (850) 205-5641. The website showing class offerings and schedule is: www.flwwceu.org. Please note that CEUS are only valid for two years.

How do I get a Water Well Contractor License Application form?

Contact the nearest Water Management District and ask for the State of Florida Water Well Contractor License Application form and the license packet. The packet will include the application form and all the rules and regulations required to study for the exam. Complete the application and submit it with the NON-REFUNDALBE LICENSE APPLICATION FEE; the list of ten wells worked on by the applicant; three letters attesting to the applicant's well drilling experience; and a photocopy of the Certificate of Completion of the 12 Continuing Education Units issued by the Florida Water Well Administrator. Please remember to sign the application. Once the application is received by the District, staff will verify the information and then contact the applicant to schedule a time to take the test.

I am licensed in another state and have just moved to Florida. May I transfer my license?

No. The State of Florida does not have any reciprocal arrangements with other states concerning water well contractor licensing. In order to obtain a State of Florida Water Well Contractor License, a filled in application along with the fee; three letters attesting to the applicant's experience; the list of wells; and proof of the required 12 Continuing Education Units should be submitted to the appropriate water management district.

Do I need a separate Water Well Contractor's License for each of the Water Managements I want to work in?

No. A water well contractor's license and renewal should be obtained by the District in which the applicant's principle business is located. The State of Florida Water Well Contractor License is accepted statewide.

I do not speak or read English well. Can I get the rules, the application, and the test in another language?

No. The rules, application, and test are only in English. However, the applicant may have a translator when taking the test.

How much is the Water Well Contractor's Application Fee?

The South Florida Water Management license application fee is \$150.00. Checks or money orders should be made payable to: South Florida Water Management District or SFWMD. *PLEASE DO NOT SEND CASH!*

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When can I take the test?

The test will be scheduled after the complete application has been received and all the information in the application has been reviewed by District staff. If everything is complete and satisfactory then staff will contact the applicant and schedule a test date, time and location when the test will be given. After successfully completing the test (70% or above is a passing score) a State of Florida Water Well Contractor's License and Certificate will be issued.

What is on the test?

The test consists of 150 multiple choice, true or false, and some fill-in-the-blank questions. The exam covers rules, regulations, drilling methods, business and safety practices, and penalties for not following the rules and regulations.

Is it an open book test?

No. This is not an open book test.

Can I get a copy of the test to study?

No.

What happens if I do not pass the test?

The test may be retaken. The applicant will have a total of three chances to pass the test within 365 days of the application being complete.

Is a Water Well Contractor's License required if I only drill monitor wells?

Yes, monitoring wells fall under the definition of "wells." Therefore, the same rules and regulations apply.

Is a Water Well Contractor's License required if I only install geothermal systems?

Yes, geothermal systems/well fall under the definitions of "wells." Therefore, the same rules and regulations apply.

Can a company hold the water well contractor license?

No. A Water Well Contractor License is only issued to one specific individual person who has the experience, education and who has passed the test.

When does a Water Well Contactor License expire?

Every State of Florida Water Well Contractor License expires on July 31st of every odd number year <u>regardless of when the license was issued.</u>

What do I need to do to renew my license?

Obtain 12 continuing education units (CEUs), complete the Renewal Notice/ Notice of Reversion and submit with proof of CEUs and the renewal fee. District staff will issue a new license upon verification of a complete renewal packet.

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How much does it cost to renew my Water Well Contractor License?

The fee varies depending on when you renew.

- On-time renewals (renew by July 31st of every odd year): the fee is \$50.
- Late renewals (renew after July 31st of an odd year but before August 1st of the next even year): the fee includes a late fee for a total of \$125.
- **Expired Licenses** (non-renewed licenses expire after one year (August 1st of the even year). Reactivation of the license requires the former well contractor to reapply for the license, get the 12 CEUs, pay the \$150 license application fee, take and pass the Water Well Contractor License test.

What study guides are available for the Water Well Contractor License test?

The water well contractor packet includes the following rules and regulations to study: Florida Statutes 373 Part III, Florida Statues 381.0062, Florida Administrative Code Chapters 40E-3, 64E-8, 62-524, 62-528, 62-531, 62-532, 62-550, 62-555, 62-761, Water Well Contractors Disciplinary Guidelines, and Citations Dictionary. General knowledge and experience is also necessary to operate legally as a Water Well Contractor in the State of Florida.

Publications on Water Well Construction and Drilling Practices: These are not required reading but they offer good background information:

Groundwater and Wells by Fletcher G. Driscoll, Johnson Division Second Edition (1986)

Groundwater and Wells – Spanish by Fletcher Driscoll (1991). The classic book has been translated into Spanish. This may be available through the NGWA bookstore (search by Driscoll) at www.ngwa.org

Groundwater & Wells, Third Edition edited by Robert Sterrett, Ph.D., PG Johnson Division is an updated version (2008) of the classic *Groundwater and Wells* Available through NGWA. This may be available through the NGWA bookstore (search by Sterrett) at www.ngwa.org. This book has also been located at www.amazon.com. You might also check your local library.

Drilling: The Manual of Methods, Applications, and Management by the Australian Drilling Industry Training Co. This book may be available through the NGWA bookstore at www.ngwa.org. This book has also been located at www.crcpress.com, and www.amazon.com.

Manual of Water Well Construction Practices USEPA/NGWA Water Well Standards Committee, (1998), NGWA Catalog #T871.

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Publication on Cement Grouts and Drilling Fluids:

Halliburton Cementing Tables: Halliburton has their classic Red Book available online for free downloads to regular computers, Apple or Android devices. http://www.halliburton.com/ps/Default.aspx?navid=2192&pageid=663&prodid=PR http://www.halliburton.com/ps/Default.aspx?navid=2192&pageid=663&prodid=PR

Please contact wells@sfwmd.gov or 561-682-6930 if you have any questions.

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