

SINKHOLE INFORMATION & REPAIR

LEARN ABOUT SINKHOLES IN ALACHUA COUNTY

This information is about **newly formed and active sinkhole** features. Sinkholes that exist prior to development activities are protected from disturbance or filling. Vegetative buffers are required to protect the feature and our groundwater by preserving or restoring a natural condition surrounding the sinkhole. Remember, **sinkholes are a direct link to our drinking water and are not a place for trash, hazardous materials, or unwanted debris.** To learn more about sinkholes visit the QR code below, or contact the Alachua County Environmental Protection Department at 352-264-6800.

More information on Sinkholes!

floridadep.gov/fgs/sinkholes

⚠ SINKHOLE WARNING SIGNS

- Slumping, sagging, and structural failure of a building
- Slanting fence posts or other objects
- Doors and windows that fail to close properly
- Cracks in walls, floors, pavement, and the ground surface,
- Pooling of rainfall where it has not previously pooled, or no pooling of rainwater where it usually pools
- Sediment in nearby well water

Soil and sediment subsidence (sinking) are common during periods of high rainfall, especially when preceded by dry periods. Land subsidence results from a number of factors, one of which is sinkhole development.



Newly formed sinkhole



Established, protected sinkhole

Common causes of subsidence not related to sinkhole formation include:

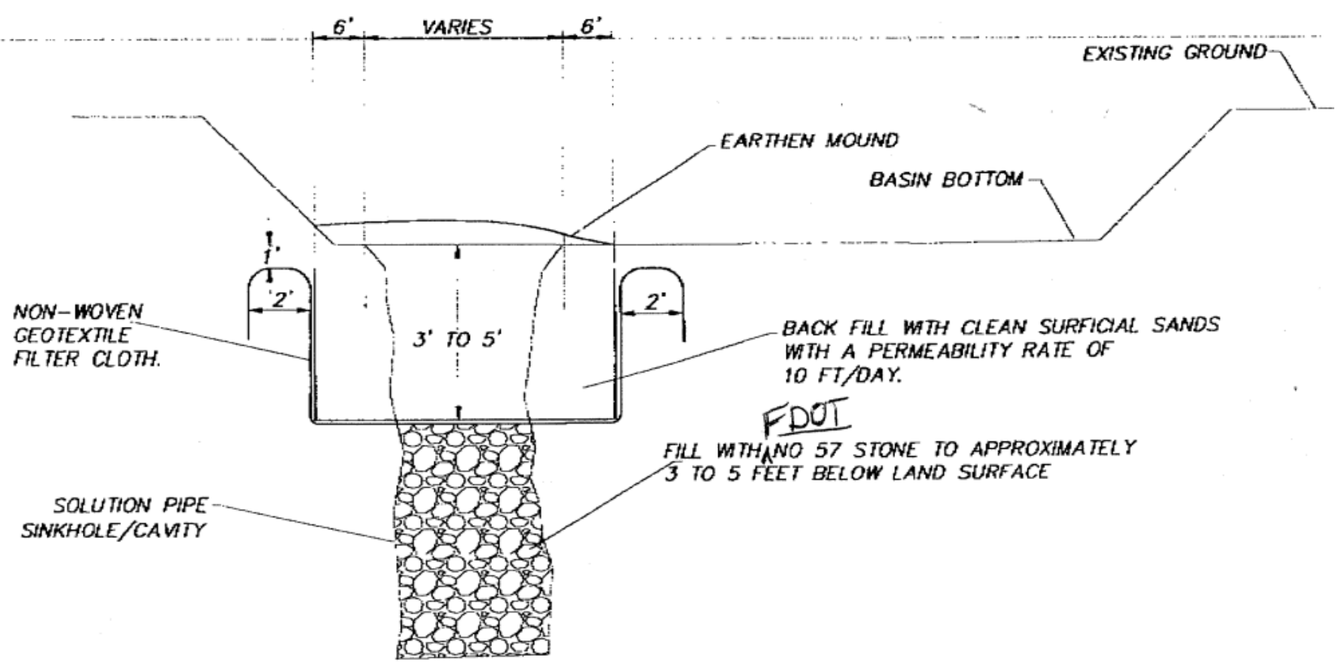
- Decay of land-clearing debris buried when a structure was built
- Decay of tree stumps and large roots
- Leaking water pipes and fittings
- Cracked and leaking swimming pools
- Cracked stormwater piping carrying away soil with the stormwater runoff
- Poor compaction of soil around utility lines
- Runoff from roofs, gutters, and pavement.

Sinkhole formation must be taken seriously. Life-threatening situations should be immediately reported to the local emergency management agency. Residents should check their home owner's insurance to determine if their policies include sinkhole protection. Not only can sinkholes damage structures, but they can also compromise septic systems and wells. If your drinking water becomes cloudy or colored contact the Alachua County Health Department to have your water tested. A professionally licensed geologist or qualified engineer should evaluate any sinkhole *threatening* property. A qualified professional should be selected to remedy the problem in this case.

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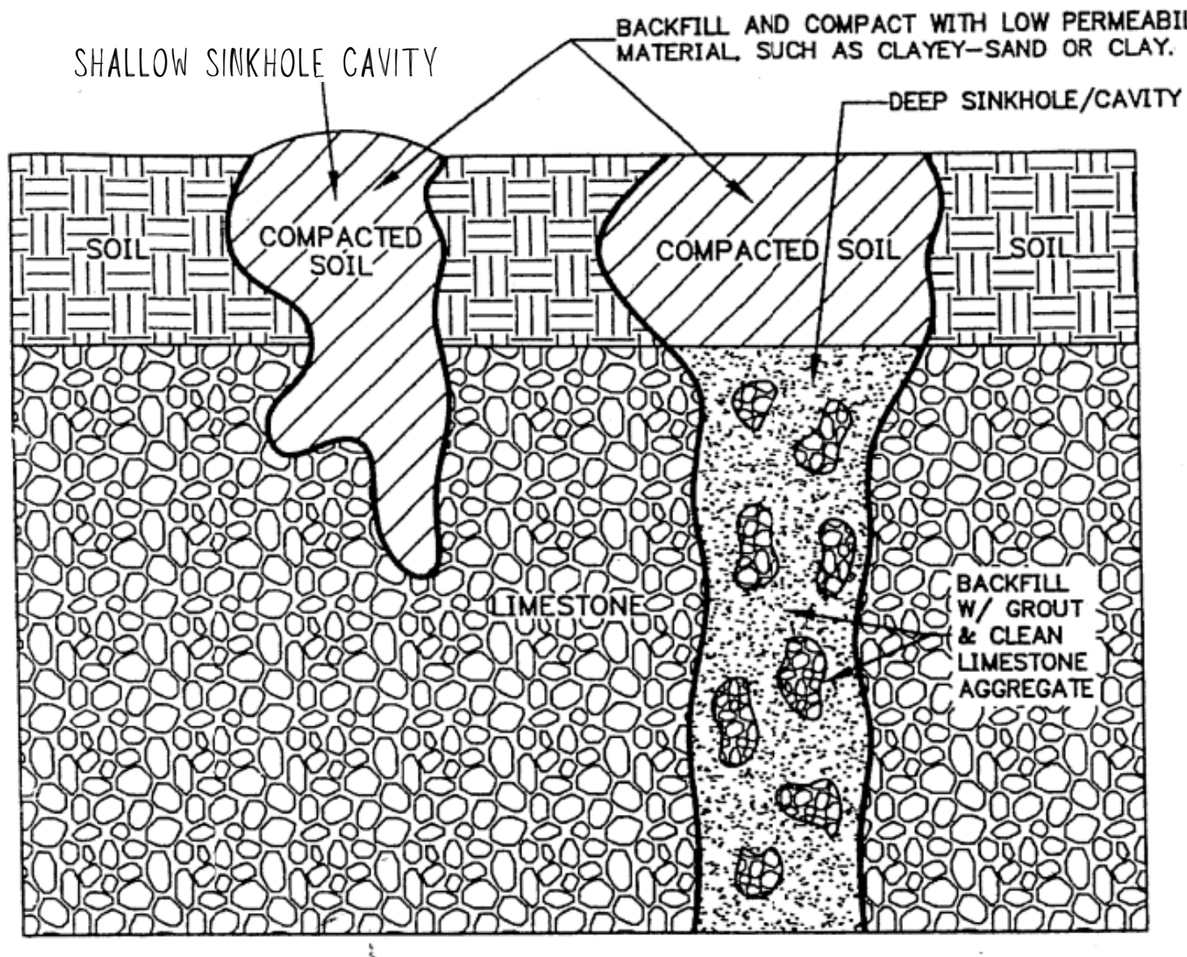
County Water Quality Code – <u>Sec. 77.12: Groundwater Protection</u>:
All sinkholes determined by the department to represent a threat to groundwater quality must be properly managed. Citizens are provided with plans and can do self repair, or hire a Geotech firm or a contractor.



SOLUTION PIPE/
CHIMNEY REPAIR DETAIL

NTS

1. IF A SOLUTION PIPE SINKHOLE DOES FORM IN THE STORMWATER BASIN, THEN THE SINKHOLE SHALL BE REPAIRED BY BACKFILLING WITH NO. 57 STONE TO APPROXIMATELY 3 TO 5 FEET BELOW LAND SURFACE. AN AREA AT LEAST 6' BEYOND THE EDGES OF THE CHIMNEY SHOULD BE EXCAVATED TO THE TOP OF THE GRAVEL. A NON-WOVEN GEOTEXTILE FILTER CLOTH SHOULD BE PLACED AT THE BOTTOM OF THE EXCAVATION AND THE EXCAVATION SHOULD BE BACKFILLED WITH CLEAN SAND HAVING A VERTICAL COEFFICIENT OF PERMEABILITY OF 10 FEET PER DAY. THE MATERIAL SHALL BE COMPACTED AND THE SINKHOLE REPAIR SHOULD BRING THE SURFACE BACK TO AN ELEVATION WHICH IS SLIGHTLY ABOVE THE ORIGINAL BOTTOM, CREATING A SMALL MOUND.



SECTION VIEW

SHALLOW AND DEEP SINKHOLE/CAVITY
MAINTENANCE REPAIR DETAIL

N.T.S.

Proper repair is needed to protect our groundwater, which is our source of our drinking water!

Companies for sinkhole evaluation and repair
Updated: August 2024

The following information was supplied by the individual companies or provided by the Alachua County Environmental Protection Department (ACEPD) and is not necessarily a complete list. A firm's absence from this list does not imply prejudice or impropriety. The ACEPD does not endorse any specific consulting company.

Geotech Firms:

- BTL Engineering Services, Inc., Tampa, FL | 800-261-0755
- Environmental Consulting & Technology, Gainesville, FL |352-332-0444
- Foundation Services | 352-622-9218
- GeoHazards, Inc., Gainesville, FL | 352-371-7243
- GSE Engineering & Consulting, Inc., Gainesville, FL | 352-377-3233
- Universal Engineering Sciences, Gainesville, FL | 352-372-3392

Concrete suppliers:

- OBI fka O'Steen Construction, Gainesville, FL | 352-376-1634
- R.E. Arnolds Construction, Inc., Archer, FL | 352-495-9494
- Watson Construction, Newberry, FL | 352-472-9157
- Whitehurst Construction, Newberry, FL | 352-472-9157