



Resilient Environment Department

ENVIRONMENTAL PERMITTING DIVISION

1 North University Drive, Suite 201A, Plantation, Florida 33324 • 954-519-1483 • FAX 954-519-1412

Riprap Requirement for Over-Water Structures and Seawalls

Over-water Structures

Over-water structures should be designed to minimize impacts to benthic resources that result from shading or construction. The Department has determined that over-water structures with a width greater than 8 feet create the potential for substantial cumulative environmental impacts. To avoid such impacts, the following guidelines have been established:

- An over-water structure that qualifies for a "General License", i.e. it is less than 500 square feet or is an exact replacement of an existing dock, does not require riprap. *For example: a 10 foot-wide by 50 foot-long structure does not require riprap.*
- An over-water structure with a width less than 8 feet, no matter what the length is, does not require riprap. *For example: a structure that is 6 feet-wide by 100 feet-long does not require riprap.*
- An over-water structure with a width of 8 feet and a length less than or equal to 100 feet does not require riprap. *For example: a structure that is 8 feet-wide by 90 feet-long does not require riprap.*
- An over-water structure with a Width of 8 feet and a length greater than 100 feet requires riprap under the portion of the structure that exceeds 100 ft. *For example: a structure that is 8 feet-wide by 130 feet-long requires riprap under 30 feet of the structure.*
- An over-water structure with a width greater than 8 feet will require riprap under the entire length of the proposed structure. *For example: a 10 foot-wide by 80 foot-long structure will require riprap under all 80 feet of the structure.*

The width and area of an over-water structure are measured from the wet face of the existing seawall panel to the most waterward point of the proposed structure. Natural limerock boulder riprap shall be placed under the proposed structure starting at one foot below mean high water and continuing at a 2 horizontal: 1 vertical slope ratio. Riprap should not extend past the structure, but it should be placed so that full tidal flushing is achieved. Riprap must be verified by staff once construction is complete.

New Seawalls (Tidal Water Bodies Only)

Per Section 27-337(b)(5), "all vertical bulkheads or seawalls constructed in marine waters where no previous seawall existed shall be provided with natural limerock rip-rap, or other approved habitat enhancement, at the waterward face of the bulkhead or seawall."

Riprap should be placed at the face of the seawall starting at one foot above Mean High Water (MHW) and continuing at a 2 horizontal: 1 vertical slope ratio. Riprap must be verified by staff once construction is complete.