



Maintain and upgrade your system

Irrigation systems need regular maintenance to keep them working efficiently year after year. Damage from lawn equipment or winter frosts can cause leaks and other serious problems.

- ◆ **Inspect your system monthly.**
Check for leaks, broken or clogged sprinkler heads, and other problems. Clean clogged screens and micro-irrigation filters as needed.
- ◆ **Adjust sprinkler heads.**
Remove obstructions that prevent sprinklers from distributing water evenly. Adjust sprinkler head positions and spray patterns to avoid watering sidewalks or structures and to provide necessary clearance over growing plants.
- ◆ **Check the pressure.**
If your system has pressure valves that control individual irrigation zones check each zones pressure regularly. Valves can be knocked or deteriorate over time and impact upon system efficiency.
- ◆ **Inspect the system for leaks.**
Leaks are a huge water waster. A good contractor can perform regular maintenance checks for leaks, broken or clogged spray heads, and other problems. Ask them to show you common problems to watch for between visits.
- ◆ **Install a rain shutoff switch.**
These inexpensive sensors can be retrofitted to almost any system and help compensate for natural rainfall by turning off your system in rainy weather.
- ◆ **Consider “SMART” technology.**
Climate or soil moisture sensor-based controllers evaluate weather or soil moisture conditions and then automatically adjust the irrigation schedule to meet the specific needs of your landscape.
- ◆ **Consider low volume, micro-irrigation for gardens, trees and shrubs.**
Drip (or trickle) irrigation, micro spray jets, micro-sprinklers and bubbler irrigation all apply a very small amount of water, slowly and precisely, minimising evaporation, runoff and overspray.
- ◆ **Have your system audited.**
Hire a professional to conduct an irrigation performance assessment to verify areas are being watered evenly and appropriately, and make necessary adjustments.
- ◆ **Winterise systems in colder climates.**
An irrigation contractor with specialised equipment can flush out water that could freeze and crack pipes, valves and sprinklers.

SMART
WATERING

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