

Water Smart™

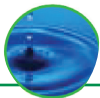
EFFICIENT IRRIGATION

The key to efficient irrigation is to apply only the amount of water a landscape needs. A properly installed and correctly programmed irrigation system will ensure shrubs, trees and groundcovers receive adequate water on a regular schedule. Remember to water deeply, but less often and winterize irrigation systems.



WATER SMART IRRIGATION INCLUDES

- Plants irrigated in zones based on similar water needs
- Automatic controller allowing each zone to be watered on a schedule that can be adjusted for plant needs and season
- Backflow prevention device installed per city code
- Frequent checks for clogged emitters, leaks, broken sprinkler heads, and overspray onto walks and drives
- Annual irrigation consultation by a certified auditor



BASIC IRRIGATION GUIDELINES

- Do not combine spray irrigation with drip irrigation on the same zone.
- Mulch soil surface to reduce evaporation.
- Irrigate established trees and large shrubs at the drip line to encourage a healthy root system. Extend/expand irrigation system as plants grow.
- Avoid mid-day irrigation.
- Make use of automatic control systems.
- Ensure irrigation system is appropriate for plant type (e.g., drip vs. spray).

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LAWN CARE GUIDELINES

- Consider reducing or eliminating large or unused lawn areas.
- Select a grass that is well suited to the area. Buffalo grass or native groundcovers require little or no supplemental irrigation once established.
- Soil preparation for new lawns is critical for health and irrigation efficiency.
- When irrigating, avoid puddling or runoff.
- Water only as much as can be readily absorbed. Consider an irrigation audit to determine proper irrigation scheduling.
- Monitor lawn for moisture stress. Tip: Walk across the lawn, if footprints appear, it is time to water.
- Raise the mower height. Never remove more than one-third of the total height of the grass at any one time.
- Install an irrigation system that allows for the even distribution of water.
- Use fertilizer sparingly to avoid excessive growth.
- Use extreme caution when applying weed-and-feed products, as they can harm nearby ornamental plants.
- Always follow label instructions.
- Adjust irrigation controllers for seasonal changes.



RAINWATER HARVESTING

Rainwater harvesting is a tool to capture and use water (that does not come from the municipal water supply) to supplement landscape water needs. A simple method involves rainwater falling from the roof into a container where it is stored for later use or into a diversion channel where gravity carries it to the planted area(s).

RESOURCES

Harvesting Rainwater for Landscape Use, Patricia H. Waterfall, University of Arizona Cooperative Extension

Rainwater Harvesting for Drylands and Beyond, Brad Lancaster

For more information and helpful community links, visit the Coalition website at

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