

WATER-WISE IRRIGATION EQUIPMENT

What is the most efficient irrigation system for nonturf areas?

Drip irrigation. It is the most efficient method of watering bedded plants, trees, or shrubs. Soaker hoses are an easy and inexpensive alternative to drip irrigation.

What type of sprinkler should I use for the lawn?

One that produces large drops of water close to the ground. Don't use a sprinkler that produces a mist or fine spray. Use a timer so you don't forget to turn the sprinkler off.

How should I manage my automatic sprinkler system for water efficiency?

Adjust the settings as needed. Don't just set it in the spring and leave it on all season. Automatic sprinkler systems provide an efficient method of watering lawns. Their controllers use timers to turn off the system when a measured amount of water is used, and rain shut-off devices prevent watering in the rain.

Not all plants have the same watering requirements. Reduce the run time of sprinklers on shrubs, which may not need as much water as grass. Shady areas may not need as much water either. Contact a professional landscape irrigation specialist for a maintenance check.

What maintenance is required for my automatic sprinkler system?

Check sprinkler heads regularly. Remove dirt or debris that may be clogging the nozzle and make sure the heads are working at the proper pressure and not leaking.

Repair or replace broken heads, valves, seals, and pipes. Once a month, run the sprinklers for a short time on each cycle while you are at home to make sure they are working properly.

What features should I look for in an automatic sprinkler system?

Options that will help you save water. The controller of new sprinkler systems should have these features:

- a multiple scheduling option
- a rain shut-off device
- a water budget feature (which allows percentage adjustments without having to reprogram)
- test functions



Texas Water Development Board

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<http://texasextension.tamu.edu>

CONSERVING WATER OUTDOORS



IN THE SUMMER, outdoor water use can account for 50 to 80 percent of home water use.

Texans must use their precious water resources more efficiently, or we will have longer, more frequent water shortages, especially during droughts and hot Texas summers. Much of the water used outdoors is wasted through inefficient landscape watering practices. By reducing the amount of water we waste, we will save money and protect the quality of life of future Texans.



