

Irrigation System Checklist

Time to check in! Sprinklers and drip systems must be maintained in order to save (and not waste!) water.



Adjusting or Replacing Sprinklers

- If sprinklers are running off onto hardscapes, either a) twist the nozzle to point it correctly, b) change or repair the nozzle, or c) relocate or cap-off the sprinkler head(s).
- If sprinkler spray patterns are being blocked, trim plants or raise the heads for clearance.
- Replace broken sprinkler heads immediately, or install a temporary threaded cap if you can't get to it right away.
- If the sprinkler sprays do not reach their adjacent head, adjust the spray pattern, replace the nozzle, or relocate the head altogether.
- Sprinkler heads and nozzles should match on the same circuit and ideally be from the same manufacturer, and high volume (e.g. regular sprinklers) with low volume (e.g. drip) irrigation should be on separate irrigation valves.
- If you have irrigation leaks or your sprinklers are producing a fine spray (misting), check the water pressure with a pressure gauge (purchase for under \$20). If pressure is over 80 psi, at the hose bib and can't be adjusted down at the regulator, get a (new) pressure regulator! High pressure can create leaks inside and outside your home or business.
- Add check valves on low lying sprinkler heads so they don't ooze water after being shut off.

Adjusting Your Controller

- Since almost everyone over-waters, we recommend smart irrigation controllers! These devices read the local weather and know when and how much to water— they even turn off for rain!
- Plants (except some in pots or veggies) should never be watered more than 3 times each week. Watering too much can create fungal diseases and literally drown and discolor plants.
- If your soil is saturated and water is running off, shorten your watering times and make them more frequent. Add mulch, compost or wood chips to planting beds to help retain moisture.
- If the stations/zones on your controller are not labeled, do so now- it will save you and others time, money, water, and frustration. Make a simple map of your yard, indicating the area and zone that each irrigation valve waters.
- No cactus next to roses! Make sure that your plants are grouped by similar watering needs. Move plants if necessary.



Mulching, Retrofitting & Certifying Your Landscape

- If your ground is bare around plants, add mulch. This will reduce weeds, conserve water, prevent erosion, insulate plant roots from heat and cold- and look nicer! Add at least two inches of mulch, avoiding the crown and foliage of plants.
- Mound soil around the outside of plant canopies to make a watering basin. This helps capture and keep the water near the feeder root zone (at the drip line).
- Replacing your lawn and upgrading your irrigation will save time and money. Find out about our many landscape rebates at www.svwd.org/rebates
- If you have a water-wise landscape and would like to be acknowledged and rewarded with local landscape discounts for life, see <http://green-gardener.org/standards/> or call the water district.

Contact us for rebates on lawn, spray to drip, nozzle upgrades, impervious pavement replacement, smart controllers, downspout diversion and rain-and graywater harvesting (plus toilets and pressure regulators!).

Scotts Valley Water District
(831) 600-1907 - conservation@svwd.org
See our rebate web page at www.svwd.org/rebates

