EPA WaterSense

WaterSense® Watering Questions to Ask Your Landscape Contractor

Learn how to maximize the water efficiency of your irrigation system by raising these questions with your gardener, irrigation professional, or landscape contractor. Use the space in the right-hand column to note what you learn.

1. How do I adjust my irrigation controller to apply the least amount of water necessary to promote deeper root growth and build drought tolerance in my yard?

2. Is a "smart" irrigation controller, such as a WaterSense® labeled model, right for my landscape? How will it help me save water and money over the long term?

3. Do some irrigated areas (e.g., zones) in my yard require more water than others? Can I cut off irrigation to some of my established plants and just water by hand when necessary? Can you show me how to set my controller so I water only the zones that need it and not the zones that don't?

4. I've heard that my yard's water needs vary throughout the year. Can you show me how to adjust my irrigation system with the seasons? Can you provide a written irrigation schedule that also accounts for seasonal changes?

5. Should I still water my yard in the cooler months? Or should I winterize my irrigation system? If so, when and how?

6. Can you recommend a few native plants that will both thrive in my climate and provide beautiful accents to my yard?

7. What else can I do in my yard to use less water? Can you recommend any smart practices, alternative plants or groundcover, or maintenance options that will help me be more water-efficient?



look for WaterSense Meets EPA Criteria

WaterSense® Labeled

Irrigation Controllers

Residential outdoor water use in the United States accounts for nearly 9 billion gallons of water each day, mainly for landscape irrigation. Experts estimate that as much as 50 percent of this water is wasted due to overwatering caused by inefficiencies in irrigation methods and systems. Irrigation control technologies can significantly reduce overwatering by applying water only when plants need it.

SMART WATERING

WaterSense labeled irrigation controllers, which act like a thermostat for your sprinkler system by telling it when to turn on and off, use local weather and landscape conditions to tailor watering schedules to actual conditions on the site. Instead of irrigating using a controller with a clock and a preset schedule, WaterSense labeled controllers allow watering schedules to better match plants' water needs. With proper installation, programming, and maintenance, homeowners and businesses can use WaterSense labeled controllers instead of standard clock-timer controllers on their existing systems, and no longer worry about wasted water.

WATERSENSE SAVINGS

Replacing a standard clock timer with a WaterSense labeled irrigation controller can save an average home nearly 8,800 gallons of water annually. If every home in the United States with an automatic irrigation system installed and properly operated a WaterSense labeled irrigation controller, we could save $435 million in water costs and 120 billion gallons of water across the country annually from not overwatering lawns and landscapes. That's equal to the annual household water needs of nearly 1.3 million average American homes.



WaterSense labeled irrigation controllers allow watering schedules to better match plants' needs.

LOOK FOR THE WATERSENSE LABEL!

To earn the WaterSense label, landscape irrigation controllers must be able to adequately meet the watering needs of a landscape without overwatering. As with all other WaterSense labeled products, WaterSense labeled controllers are third-party certified to ensure that they meet the WaterSense criteria for efficiency and performance. For more information or a list of WaterSense labeled products, visit www.epa.gov/watersense.

KNOW WHAT MAKES IT GROW

For more water-smart landscaping tips, please visit www.epa.gov/watersense/outdoor/landscaping_tips.html.

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