

Irrigation Maintenance Checklist

Sprinklers and drip systems must be maintained to be effective. Now's the time to check yours



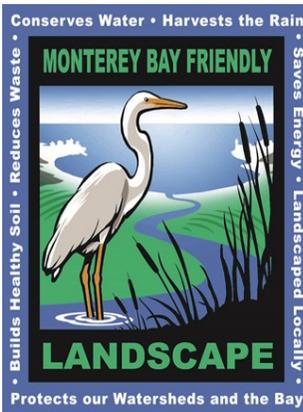
Adjusting or Replacing Sprinklers

- If your sprinklers are watering sidewalks, patios, driveways or streets, adjust their spray pattern, change the sprinkler nozzle, or relocate sprinkler heads.
- If your sprinklers' spray patterns are blocked by other plants, trim the plants or raise the heads for clearance.
- If you have broken sprinkler heads, replace them immediately or install a temporary cap.
- If the sprinkler spray on your lawn doesn't reach its adjacent head, adjust the spray pattern, replace the nozzle, or relocate the head altogether.
- If your sprinkler heads and nozzles do not match on the same circuit and/or are from different manufacturers, purchase and install matching for increased efficiency.
- If your sprinklers are producing a fine spray (misting), it is likely you will need to install a pressure regulator just past your meter to increase droplet size and prevent leaks, and/or check pressure regulators on individual irrigation valves. Pressure should not be over 50 psi for sprinklers and 30 psi for drip.
- If you have leaks in your landscape system, check the water pressure first.



Adjusting Your Controller

- If moss or mushrooms are growing around your plants, they are being overwatered. Reduce your watering time a few minutes each week until plants show the beginning signs of stress- then increase watering slightly until they don't show signs.
- If your soil is saturated and water is running off, shorten your watering times and make them more frequent. If it is a planting bed, also add mulch, compost or wood chips. Consider replacing lawns with plants and mulch.
- If the stations on your controller are not labeled, label them now- it will save you and others time, water, and frustration. Make a map of the area that each valve irrigates.
- Make sure that your plants are grouped by similar watering needs. Move some plants or irrigation type as needed.



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 help capture and keep the water near the feeder root zone (at the drip line).
- If you have excessive thatch build -up in your lawn, it is likely that you are over watering and/or over-fertilizing. Replacing your lawn will reduce maintenance time and water bills for you, your family or business.
- If 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/>



Contact us for rebates on lawn, spray irrigation and impervious pavement replacement, and on smart controllers, downspout diversion and rain-and graywater harvesting.

Scotts Valley Water District

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