



Sprinkler Spruce-Up Facts and Tips

When it comes to a home's irrigation system, a little maintenance goes a long way. This spring, encourage homeowners and other customers to do a little “sprinkler spruce-up” by using the facts and tips below. By encouraging your constituents to properly maintain their irrigation systems or have them inspected and repaired by a certified irrigation professional, you will promote water-smart landscapes in your community.

Irrigation Water Use Facts

- Residential outdoor water use across the United States accounts for nearly 9 billion gallons of water each day, mainly for landscape irrigation.
- Experts estimate that as much as half of the water we use outdoors is being wasted due to evaporation, wind, or runoff caused by inefficient irrigation methods and systems.
- Homes with clock-timer-controlled irrigation systems use about 50 percent more water outdoors than homes without irrigation systems. Your system can waste even more if it's programmed incorrectly, a sprinkler head is pointed in the wrong direction, or you have a leak.
- A clock-timer-controlled irrigation system that isn't properly programmed or maintained can waste as much as 30,000 gallons of water annually.
- A broken or missing sprinkler head could waste as much as 25,000 gallons of water and more than \$90 over a six-month irrigation season.

Simple Tips for Sprucing Up Your Sprinkler

Before you ramp up your watering this spring, spruce up your irrigation system by remembering four simple steps: *inspect*, *connect*, *direct*, and *select*.

- ***Inspect.*** Check your system for clogged, broken or missing sprinkler heads. Better yet, ***go with a pro***—find an irrigation professional certified by a WaterSense labeled program to do the work for you.
- ***Connect.*** Examine points where the sprinkler heads connect to pipes/hoses. If water pools in your landscape or you have large soggy areas, you could have a leak in your system. A leak about as small as the tip of a ballpoint pen (or 1/32nd of an inch) can waste about 6,300 gallons of water per month.
- ***Direct.*** Are you watering the driveway, house, or sidewalk instead of your yard? Redirect sprinklers to apply water only to the landscape.

- **Select.** An improperly scheduled irrigation controller can waste a lot of water and money. Update your system's schedule with the seasons, or select a WaterSense labeled controller to take the guesswork out of scheduling.

For more tips, visit the WaterSense website at www.epa.gov/watersense/outdoor.

Spruce Up Your Sprinkler System

look for
WaterSense
EPA Choice

Inspect sprinkler heads.
A broken one can waste **25,000** gallons of water in six months!

Connect hoses and pipes well.
A leak as small as the tip of a pen can waste **6,300** gallons of water per month!

Select a WaterSense® labeled irrigation controller and water smarter.

Direct spray on landscapes, not pavement!

The infographic features a central illustration of a house with a green roof and a brown door. A white irrigation controller is mounted on the wall next to the door. A network of white pipes runs across the lawn, leading to several black sprinkler heads. One head is shown spraying water onto a grey pavement area, while others spray onto green grass. A blue speech bubble contains the text 'Direct spray on landscapes, not pavement!'. A blue speech bubble contains the text 'A broken one can waste 25,000 gallons of water in six months!'. Another blue speech bubble contains the text 'A leak as small as the tip of a pen can waste 6,300 gallons of water per month!'. The background is a light green lawn with a white border.