

Sprinkler System Tips and Tricks

These easy to do tips and tricks will allow you to conserve water in your sprinkler system. We highly recommend having an audit done, but until then, give these a try!

Cycle Soak Scheduling

- Each watering day should deliver 0.5" of water to the landscape. However, most spray head zones apply water faster than the soil can absorb it.
- Splitting the time needed for one day into two cycles gives more time for the soil to absorb the water, and is more efficient.
- Action: Set two start times (about an hour or two apart) for your turf watering program and cut all zone run times in half.

Level Heads

- Sprinkler heads should be level and not tilting or sunken to promote maximum efficiency.
- Action: Repair tilted heads by hand with a trowel by removing soil from one side, straightening, and repacking soil on the other.

Mixed Head Types

- Mixed spray and rotor heads in a single zone lead to inconsistent watering of the zone area. Note that it is NOT an issue to have one zone that is all rotor heads and another zone that is all spray heads.
- Matching all head and nozzles types for each zone will allow the minimal use of water to effectively water the zone.
- Action: Replace heads that do not match the rest of the zone. If you have spray heads in a rotor zone, install rotary nozzles that will fit onto the spray head stem.

Leaks

- Leaks increase the amount of water used during watering cycles.
- Action: Repair or replaces any know leaking heads.

Run Times

- Rotors and spray heads have different ideal run times.
- Spray heads put out about three times the amount of water as rotor heads.

- Action: Set your spray zones to 6-9 minutes each cycle and your rotor zones to 15-20 minutes each cycle. Using the cycle soak scheduling (explained above), this would mean you are actually watering twice as long each watering day.

Some recommended watering times:

	May	June	July	August	Sept	Oct
Spray	1-2 days/wk 2 cycles of 6 minutes	2-3 days/wk 2 cycles of 8 minutes	2-3 days/wk 2 cycles of 9 minutes	2-3 days/wk 2 cycles of 8 minutes	1-2 days/wk 2 cycles of 7 minutes	1 day/wk 2 cycles of 6 minutes
Rotor	1-2 days/wk 2 cycles of 16 minutes	2-3 days/wk 2 cycles of 18 minutes	2-3 days/wk 2 cycles of 20 minutes	2-3 days/wk 2 cycles of 18 minutes	1-2 days/wk 2 cycles of 16 minutes	1 day/wk 2 cycles of 16 minutes