



ATTENTION

New Homeowners!

Your Irrigation System May Be Running on Automatic

If you own a newly constructed home, your contractor or landscaper may have set your irrigation system to an automatic setting to help establish your turfgrass, bushes, shrubs, and flowers for the first month after planting. Once established, your lawn does not need as much water, even in the summer heat. You could be over-watering your grass or watering when your landscape does not need it, like before, during, or just after a rain event.

The Downside of Automatic Settings

If your irrigation system is set to an automatic setting without your knowledge, it can lead to overwatering your landscape. Overwatering a landscape can prevent roots from establishing and make your grass more vulnerable to diseases and fungi. It can also cause your water bill to be higher than normal or necessary.

Save water and money and let the rain do the work!





Tips to Reduce Your Outdoor Watering

Metro Atlanta gets an average of 50 inches of rain per year – that is more than Seattle! Let the rain do the work and turn your irrigation system off.

Most landscapes and lawns only need one inch of water or rain about every two weeks. If it has been raining, you don't need to water.

Be aware that there are year-round watering restrictions in Georgia. Only water your landscape **before 10 AM or after 4 PM** to avoid the hottest part of the day when evaporation is greatest.

Tips for New Homeowners with Irrigation Systems

1. Are you in a newly constructed home? Check your irrigation system. You may be watering late at night or early in the morning without even knowing it!
2. Switch your irrigation system to manual. You'll have more control over the irrigation needs of the different areas of your landscape.
3. Check your sprinkler heads. Make sure they're pointed at the base of your plants and not watering or over-spraying onto driveways or walkway.
4. In the fall, winterize your system by draining the lines to prep for freezing temperatures.
5. In the spring, spruce up your system by checking for lines and heads that may have broken or cracked over the winter.

Visit mydropcounts.org for more ways to save water and money at home.

US EPA WaterSense Sprinkler Spruce Up
epa.gov/watersense/sprinkler-spruce-up

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