

## Manage Your Irrigation System

If your home is one of the more than 13.5 million with an in-ground irrigation system, try some of these simple strategies to reduce your water waste and protect the environment. Having a beautiful landscape doesn't have to mean using a lot of water.

- **Adjust your irrigation system often.** Irrigation controllers should be updated based on seasonal changes. A WaterSense labeled weather-based irrigation controller uses weather data to determine when and how much to water.
- **Set sprinklers to keep the water on the landscape and off the pavement.** Lots of water is wasted by poorly designed and neglected sprinkler systems that spray sidewalks, driveways, and the street. Save water by directing sprinklers toward the landscape.
- **Inspect your irrigation system monthly.** Check for leaks, broken or clogged heads, and other problems, or engage a certified irrigation professional to regularly check your system. Clean micro irrigation filters as needed and correct obstructions in sprinkler heads that prevent them from distributing water evenly.



- **Play "zone" defense.** Similar plants should be planted together in an irrigation zone, and each hydrozone should account for the type of sprinkler, sun or shade exposure, and type of plants. You can save even more water outdoors by incorporating water-smart landscaping principles into your landscape design.
- **Check for WaterSense!** A certified irrigation professional can design, install, maintain, or audit your system to ensure you're using the proper amount of water to support a healthy landscape. Ask if your irrigation contractor is certified by a WaterSense labeled program.