



# TRICKS OF THE TRADE

Facilities Management Newsletter

## Summer Watering Tips: Irrigation Systems



For those that have an irrigation system at home, you want to ensure it is working to the best of its ability with the summer months quickly approaching. Follow the steps below to check your irrigation system for functionality:

1. Turn on your main water supply to your irrigation system
2. Check for leaks at all points of connection and repair as needed
3. Turn on the automatic valve one at a time from the automatic controller. Look for leaks on the down stream side of each valve
4. With the valve on from controller, walk the area that the valve operates looking for leaks under the ground or at spray heads in the lawn. If the valve operates a drip system then look for broken emitters, poly tubing, or plugged tubing
5. Check for proper operation of the automatic controller. Make sure the day and time settings are correct. If your controller uses batteries, now would be a good time to replace them for the upcoming season. Repair wires as needed and remove dust and insect homes from inside the controller
6. When setting the watering times for the summer season keep these tips in mind:
  - Water in the early morning as the sun is rising-this is the best time for grass to take in moisture
  - Water for 10-15 minutes about 3-5 days per week—the time may vary based on your plant and soil needs
  - If you are using a drip system, it is best to water deep for long periods of time less frequently. Again, the time will vary depending on the plants need. Ensure that as your plants grow, so should your drip system
7. Continually monitor your irrigation system for the changing of the seasons—for example in winter it is best to turn off your system, drain off pressure, and protect from freezing weather
8. If there is ever an issue, you can refer to your irrigation system's hand book or visit a home improvement or irrigation store for assistance

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Feel free to send us an email with any additional questions you may have to:  
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