

OUTDOOR WATER USE EFFICIENCY

IRRIGATION TIMERS

Automatic Timers

An automated sprinkler system can help you water efficiently if the timer is used properly. A study conducted by the Division of Water Resources found that residents with automatic sprinkler systems typically water 44% more than the lawn needs.



Make sure you use your timer wisely by doing the following:

- Adjust your watering schedule to the season. Your landscape needs much less water during the spring and fall than it does during the summer.
- Water only between 6 pm and 10 am. Not watering during the hot daytime hours will reduce the amount of water you lose to evaporation.
- Don't water during or after a rainstorm. Historically, Mother Nature has provided about 30-40% of the moisture your lawn needs to remain healthy--take advantage of this gift and help conserve our water resources.
- Program your timer to cycle watering events. Clay type soils and areas with mild or steep slopes usually cannot absorb water fast enough to prevent it from running off. If such conditions exist in your landscape, program your timer to water for several shorter periods, with about an hour in-between, to let the water soak into the soil.
- Keep the battery in your timer fresh and a copy of your schedule nearby. If the power fails and your battery is dead, you will lose all the adjustments you have made. Just in case, keep a copy of the schedule that works best for your landscape nearby so you can easily reprogram the timer if needed.

Read your user's manual to learn more about the capabilities of your timer. If it cannot do what you need it to, purchase a new one. And remember, your timer is there to help you water efficiently, but it can only do so if you know it well!



WEATHER BASED IRRIGATION CONTROLLERS

Residential outdoor water use in the United States accounts for more than 7 billion gallons of water each day, mainly for landscape irrigation. Experts estimate that as much as 50% of this water is wasted due to overwatering caused by inefficiencies in irrigation methods and systems.

Existing Weather Based Irrigation Controller (WBIC) technologies can significantly reduce overwatering by applying water only when plants need it. WBIC's use local weather and landscape conditions to tailor irrigation schedules to actual conditions on the site. Instead of irrigating on a preset schedule set by a clock timer controller. WBIC's also allow irrigation to more closely match plants water requirements. With proper installation, programming and maintenance, homeowners, businesses, and organizations no longer need to worry about sprinkler automatically operating when landscapes don't need water.

Resources — Rebates and Qualifying Products: www.socalwatersmart.com
EPA Partnership Program: epa.gov/watersense/products/controltech.html

