



COUNTY OF SPOTSYLVANIA



Cross Connection and Backflow Prevention Program Automatic In-Ground Sprinkler and Irrigation Systems

Dear Customer,

An automatic sprinkler and irrigation system can be the most efficient method of watering a landscape if it is correctly designed, maintained and programmed according to plant needs and weather conditions. Lawn irrigation can account for over 50% of a homeowner's water usage. Many homeowners irrigate too often and for too short a period to meet lawn and especially landscaping --tree and shrub-- needs. Others tend to leave the water running too long, resulting in wasted water.

All owners should be aware of the system's operations and be alert to signs of trouble with equipment or scheduling. It is also important to adapt the system to maturing landscapes and to consider improvements that can increase efficiency.

According to the USDA, turf studies show that most lawns only require irrigation once every 4 to 8 days to stay healthy and green.



Water grasses heavily and deeply. Frequent, shallow sprinklings produce poor root development.



Water during the coolest part of the day; generally early in the morning



Do not water during windy conditions.



Be sure sprinkler heads are positioned correctly so they water the lawn, not the pavement.



Use mulch on your garden and flower beds to help keep soil moist.



Choose plants that are more heat and drought tolerant.

The Virginia Department of Health Waterworks Regulations requires the Utilities Department to maintain and enforce a Cross Connection Control Program.

As a part of the Program, in-ground lawn sprinkler and irrigation systems are required to have an approved Backflow Prevention Device installed between the potable water supply and the first sprinkler head. The Pressure Vacuum Breaker (ASSE 1020) and Reduced Pressure Zone Device (ASSE 1013) are the two most common types of approved devices.

Consumers are responsible for the installation, testing and maintenance of required backflow prevention devices or backflow prevention by separations. Backflow Prevention Devices are required to be tested annually by a Certified Backflow Prevention Device Tester, and a copy of a completed Backflow Prevention Device Test Form must be submitted to the Spotsylvania County Utilities Department to verify compliance.

For additional information regarding water use and the County's Program, contact us at (540) 507-7300 or by e-mail at utilities@spotsylvania.va.us. You can also find more information at <https://www.spotsylvania.va.us/923/Cross-Connection-Backflow-Prevention>

Recommended Watering Schedule

In an effort to promote water conservation, the Spotsylvania County Utilities Department is recommending the following schedule for lawn and landscaping watering and irrigation systems.

ADDRESS	DAYS TO WATER
Odd Number Addresses*	Sunday, Tuesday, Friday
Even Number Addresses*	Monday, Thursday, Saturday
Businesses	Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday

* We recommend customers irrigate on Wednesday as an alternate day.
Please consider setting your irrigation timer to avoid watering
between peak demand hours of 5:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.

Over the last two years, Spotsylvania County Utilities has deployed smart meter technology and given customers the ability to access, view, and budget individual water usage within the WaterSmart™ portal. Please visit <https://spotsylvaniava.watersmart.com> to learn more about what this service has to offer.



For questions or additional water conservation tips, call Spotsylvania County Utilities at 540-507-7300 or visit our website at: <https://www.spotsylvania.va.us/951/Water-Conservation>