

Irrigation Audit

When it comes to water usage, conventional practices no longer suffice. The EPA estimates that within the next five years, more than two-thirds of the states in the nation will likely be short on water, even under non-drought conditions. Adopting water-savvy habits not only helps reduce waste, it promotes healthier lawns and landscapes.

There are a variety of water saving techniques which will increase your properties' water savviness and put you on the forefront of water efficiency standards.

Add “smart” technology: Smart technology refers to irrigation devices that can adjust your watering schedules without direct input from you. Climate-based controllers (ET Controllers) that adjust your watering schedules based on weather conditions and plant information can have an impact on water usage, plus many cities offer rebates and make watering allowances for these controllers

Have a rain/freeze sensor installed...low cost, excellent value: The sensor can be added to almost any system and will automatically override the settings to prevent watering when it rains or freezes.

Install micro-irrigation: Some of your old sprinklers may be replaced with micro or drip irrigation components. This works well in gardens, around trees and shrubs, and minimizes evaporative water loss and runoff.

Add a pressure regulator: Incorrect water pressure can cause conditions such as “misting”. Misting occurs when water is turned into vapor rather than droplets due too much water pressure. Most misted water drifts away. Adding a pressure regulator will increase the water droplet size which creates less drift, applies the water to the targeted plant or surface, and reduces watering times.

Install check valve & add matched precipitation rate nozzles: Check valves installed on slopes prevent water from draining downhill and flooding around lower sprinklers. Installing matched precipitation rate nozzles can save water by ensuring uniform water application in every zone. These nozzles are engineered to deliver water evenly, regardless of pattern, thus reducing over watering.

Prices

1-6 Zones	\$125
7-12 Zone	\$150
13+ Zones	\$175

Great Gardens' Irrigation Audit

In an effort to contribute to water saving techniques and to conserve our resources, Great Gardens is offering a service to assess the current status of your irrigation system and to determine the needs of your landscape:

The Audit will include:

- Inspecting for broken, mis-aligned, and sunken heads, mixed typed nozzles (rotors and popups on same zone), clogged nozzles and leaks.
- Recording your static pressure at the house and the actual gallons of water applied for each zone.
- Checking the operation of your rain/freeze sensor.
- Electrical test of all valves.
- Programming controller to provide the proper water requirements for the plants.
- Writing a report outlining the recommended changes to your system.
- Detailed zone chart with plant material and soil type listings.

Water Savings Potential

On average a home with a six zone controller will use approximately 120,000 gallons of water per year. Two thirds of that water, especially during summer months, is used for irrigation. By properly controlling your garden and lawn irrigation the potential savings per year is about 10,000 gallons. Larger systems would obviously see bigger water savings.