

Irrigation Retrofit Program

Steps to Improving sprinkler system efficiency

Miami-Dade County Irrigation Retrofit Program provides rebates for improving urban landscape irrigation systems. Homeowners can **receive up to \$400 per year for up to 3 years**. In order to receive reimbursement, sign up for a **free** irrigation assessment from the Urban Conservation Unit before making any changes to your system. To sign up for the program and for a list of irrigation system retrofits that qualify for rebates Contact the Extension Service.

Miami-Dade County Extension Service
 Urban Conservation Unit
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Qualified retrofit	Maximum rebate
Installation of a rain sensor.	\$120
Installation of a soil moisture sensor or ET controller (not both).	\$300
Removal of irrigation in areas where plants do not require irrigation water (low water demand plants that have already been established).	\$200
Redesign of irrigation system to separate zones based on plant water demand (example: grass should be on a separate zone from shrubs).	\$400
Modification and installation of sprinklers to provide matched precipitation rate throughout a zone.	\$200
Installation of low volume irrigation in landscape bed zones.	\$400
Replacement of Indexing valve with electric valves.	\$300
Other water conservation strategy (must be approved by UCU).	TBD

Step 1. Replace the indexing valve.

- The indexing valve should be replaced with electric solenoid valves. These will give you control over how long each individual irrigation zone will run.
- Why should you replace your indexing valve?
 - ❖ Requires that all zones run the same amount of time.
 - Not all sprinklers apply water at the same rate and not all plants need the same amount of water. It is possible some zones need half as much water as the others.
 - ❖ Indexing valves can get clogged and stuck, causing water to only be applied in one zone.
 - This could cause plant damage in both the dry zones and the zone getting the water. Too much water can cause plant disease and fungus.

Replace
This



INEFFICIENT
Indexing Valve

With
These



EFFICIENT
Electric Valves

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Step 2. Remove irrigation

- ❑ Many shrubs and trees in the landscape can thrive with only rainfall! You can get reimbursed for the cost of removing sprinklers in areas that do not require supplemental irrigation. **Consider removing sprinklers when you have.....**



Small spaces surrounded by pavement



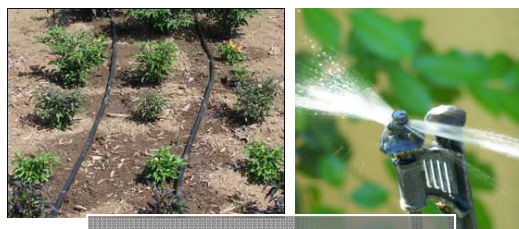
Areas with low maintenance plants



Areas that are rarely seen, used for storage or as walkways

Step 3. Use low-volume irrigation

- ❑ Micro-irrigation is the most efficient type of sprinkler and includes drip and micro sprays. These are ideal for vegetable gardens, shrubs and trees. For grass areas consider using rotary nozzles which are more efficient than sprays, but cover the same size area.



Micro-irrigation



Spray



Rotary

Step 4. Redesign of irrigation system to separate zones based on plant water demand.

- ❑ All plants do not need the same amount of water . For example grass should be irrigated separately from any other plant in the landscape. Most shrubs and trees will require very little water during the year. **Consider removing irrigation from low-maintenance areas that can survive on rain.**



All of these...

...use less than this

