



Irrigation Frequently Asked Questions

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How will I benefit from an inground sprinkler system?

Since hand-watering is done on a random basis, and at irregular intervals, an automatic sprinkler system will actually, in most cases, use less water. It will also disperse the water at an even rate, and for a predetermined amount of time. This allows you to water sunny and shady areas for different periods of time, and to water when it is most efficient. One obvious benefit is the ability to continue a watering program while you are away on vacation, etc.

How long does a system take to put in?

It would depend on the area that is trying to be covered. An average size lawn (@15,000 sq. ft.) can usually be done in one full day, depending on the situation. A large lawn can take anywhere from two to four days. On average, we spend one to two days on a job.

What type of maintenance does the system require?

The quality of the products used initially, and of the overall installation, plays an important part in the long term service of the system. The better the products and installation, the less trouble you should expect in the future. Evolve uses the finest products available in the industry including Rainbird and Hunter, and strives to provide the finest installations in the business. Evolve recommends routine irrigation inspections to ensure the system runs at 100% efficiency.

How long and how often should I run my sprinkler system?

While there are no set parameters for this, here are a few rules of thumb. The precipitation rates on geardrive/sprayhead zones is about a 4 to 1 ratio. This means that gear drive zones should be run @ four times longer than sprayzones. Gear drive zones should be run for a minimum of 30 minutes, except in very shady areas. In the hot parts of the summer, these should be changed to 45 minutes, even an hour. Sprayhead zones should be run for 8 to 10 minutes, and bumped up to 15 to 20 minutes in dramatically hot weather. In the spring and fall, you should be able to get by with every second or third day. When the weather gets very hot, once a day is a good idea, as this will keep the lawn from getting stressed. Time and experience will tell you what will work best on your own property.

What is a backflow device, and why do I need one on my sprinkler system?

A backflow device is generally a brass assembly that will prevent any water from the sprinkler system from getting into the drinking water supply, and are required by all municipalities. There are many different types of these, and each individual municipality has differing requirements for the installation.

Will water alone keep my lawn that deep green color?

While water is the key ingredient for a healthy lawn, it is not the only answer. Fertilization is generally required for that lush green look, as is bug control. If you are unfamiliar with fertilizer and pesticides, we are happy to also offer this service and can provide you with a customized plan for a successful lawn. Having a sprinkler system installed is the first step towards a healthy, green lawn, but it is not the only step.

What is drip irrigation, and can I benefit from it?

Drip irrigation is a method where small amounts of water are placed directly on the root ball of plants, therefore using the water more efficiently. This is done with a network of small tubing that is all tied together, and provides water to many plants at once. A drip zone will usually run for several hours, not twenty or thirty minutes. It is generally considered to be better for most planting beds than topical watering, and also more water conservative. Your particular situation would dictate whether it was right for you.