



## Don't Send Money Down the Drain!

**Learn to water smart to save money this summer.**

Most homeowners overwater their yard, unwittingly wasting money every time they take out the hose or turn on the sprinklers. Adopting water-savvy habits not only helps reduce this waste, it saves money while promoting a healthier lawn and landscape. The Irrigation Association has named July **Smart Irrigation Month (SIM)** to raise awareness of the benefits of smart irrigation technologies & practices, and to provide consumers with tips to get the best results.

## Right, From the Start

**Create an efficient irrigation system.**

Creating an efficient irrigation system requires specialized knowledge and understanding of irrigation design principles and local environmental conditions - something most weekend gardeners don't have. Complying with local installation codes is another consideration. Similarly, the best irrigation design won't perform well if the installation is done incorrectly or if inferior components are used. Something as simple as selecting the correct type of pipe can mean the difference between a system that lasts and one that suffers from ongoing repair problems. Irrigation systems also need regular maintenance to keep them working efficiently year after year. Damage from lawn equipment or from improper winterization can cause leaks and failures. The best bet is to hire an Irrigation Association Certified Irrigation Designer or Contractor to design and install the new system for you. **To make finding a qualified contractor easier**, the Irrigation Association maintains a registry of trained, certified irrigation professionals. Always be sure to check the credentials of a prospective contractor and don't be afraid to ask questions. Hiring a well trained contractor and insisting on high-quality components is the best start to ensure your system will operate at peak efficiency.

## Design It Right

An efficient irrigation system is one that works properly all the time. Invest in a good designer or contractor at the start, one who takes into consideration the unique water requirements of your landscape and local weather conditions.

- **Plan your irrigation zones carefully.** Be sure that your system will have enough capacity to handle all the plant types you will be watering. The more irrigation zones you plan for, the more tailored the watering schedule can be.
- **Use the best components you can afford.** This will pay dividends in the end.
- **Check the water pressure.** Low or high water pressure can seriously affect sprinkler performance. Sprinklers should be selected to match the on-site pressure.

## Contract It Right

A vital step in creating a high quality, efficient irrigation system is choosing the right irrigation contractor. Make sure the contractor is certified, check references and confirm credentials.

- **Is the contractor properly insured?** Ask for a certificate of insurance. Check for Liability, Equipment and Worker's Compensation insurance policy.
- **Visit the Irrigation Association at: [www.irrigation.org](http://www.irrigation.org).** Review the consumer friendly "Smart Irrigation Month" tips and "Find a Certified Professional".
- **Obtain several bids.** Understand the differences between them. The lowest bid may not be the best deal.

For more information contact

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