

Update Your Irrigation System and Landscape

Switch to Rotating Sprinkler Nozzles: Consider replacing your sprinkler heads with rotating sprinkler nozzles. Rotating nozzles water more uniformly and efficiently, significantly reducing your outdoor water use. Check with your local water agency for available rebates on rotating nozzles, irrigation controllers, and other water efficient devices.

Get Smart: Consider using smart irrigation controllers. Smart irrigation controllers have internal clocks as well as sensors that will turn off the sprinklers in response to environmental changes. If it is raining, too windy, or too cold, the smart irrigation controller will automatically shut off the sprinklers.

Drip don't Douse: Drip irrigation systems prevent runoff from carrying pollutants into the storm drain by watering only the targeted plants using low volumes of water.

Reduce the Need: Replace water "thirsty" plants and grass types with water efficient natives or OC Garden Friendly plants to save water and reduce the need for pesticides and fertilizer. Please see the California Friendly® Landscape Maintenance Guide produced by the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California** and associated Southern California Water Agencies for more information.

Group Plants: When adding to or redesigning your landscaping, plants that require similar watering needs can be planted together. Grouping plants with similar watering needs helps prevent unnecessary watering.

Who is H₂OC?

H₂OC is YOU! H₂OC is also a cooperative stormwater program which includes all 34 cities in Orange County, the County of Orange, and Orange County Flood Control District (OCFCD). Clean and healthy beaches, creeks, rivers, bays, wetlands, and ocean are important to Orange County. H₂OC provides resources to residents and businesses to encourage personal action and prevent polluted runoff from entering our waterways.

Join Us

Visit h2oc.org to learn more about runoff, water pollution, and how you can be the solution to runoff pollution and protect our water resources!

Contact

☎ **24-hour Pollution Reporting Hotline:**
1-877-89-SPILL (1-877-897-7455)

📱 **24-hour Reporting Website:**
myOCeServices.ocgov.com

For emergencies, dial 911

*University of California Master Gardeners of Orange County
ucceocmghotline@ucanr.edu mgorange.ucanr.edu/Gardening_Hotline/

**Visit bewaterwise.com to learn more

OVERWATERING IS OUT TIPS TO PREVENT IRRIGATION RUNOFF



H₂OC
STORMWATER PROGRAM

What is Irrigation Runoff and How Does it Lead to Pollution?

Irrigation runoff is water flowing off landscaped areas, which can carry pollutants to our storm drains and waterways. It is usually the result of landscape overwatering, and mismanaged irrigation systems. Runoff can carry pesticides, fertilizers, pet waste, and other pollutants into our storm drains, which flow untreated to the ocean. Explore the tips below to find out how to prevent irrigation runoff.

RUN YOUR SYSTEM

Run and observe your irrigation system through its entire cycle seasonally (twice a year) to look for leaks, misaligned sprinkler heads, and areas of ponding and/or runoff.



WATER AT SUNRISE

Watering early in the morning before sunrise will reduce water loss due to evaporation. Wind also tends to die down in the early morning, so the water will irrigate the lawn as intended.

WATER BY PLANT TYPE AND SEASON

Different types of grass and plants have differing water needs. This also changes throughout the year, with cooler months typically requiring less water than warmer months. Ask your landscape maintenance provider or contact the University of California Cooperative Extension Master Gardeners* for questions regarding landscape watering needs.



HAND WATER PLANTS

Garden hoses with automatic shutoff nozzles can use less water than sprinkler irrigation systems. Hand watering also ensures only those areas that need water get it and prevents irrigation runoff. An easy alternative to sprinklers, hand watering can help keep our waterways clean!

Know Your Irrigation System and Landscape:



PROPER AIM

Adjust the direction of your sprinkler heads so water does not spray on sidewalks, driveways or roads. By simply adjusting the direction of your sprinklers, you can save water, prevent irrigation runoff, and keep your landscape healthy.



FIX LEAKS

Broken or leaky sprinklers can waste thousands of gallons of water per month and significantly increase the amount of runoff from your yard. Repairing sprinklers can prevent runoff from entering our waterways and save you money.

LEAST TOXIC FIRST

Limit pesticide use by using nonchemical methods, integrated pest management, or least-toxic pesticides whenever possible. Contact the University of California Cooperative Extension Master Gardeners* for alternative suggestions and related guidance.

CYCLE AND SOAK

Running multiple, shorter cycles with an hour break in between allows the water to infiltrate into the ground so it does not run off.

RAIN SKIP

Adjusting your watering schedule when it rains prevents unnecessary watering that can lead to runoff. Keep an eye on the weather forecast and skip your normal watering schedule before, during, and after a rain to help keep our waterways clean and your landscaping looking its best.



SET A TIMER

Use an irrigation timer to minimize runoff and maximize water absorption. Water districts often provide irrigation schedules to determine the best water scheme for your yard. Contact your water provider for a weekly irrigation schedule.

GIVE IT 48 HOURS

Prevent fertilizers and pesticides from entering our waterways by not watering your lawn 48 hours after application and stopping application 48 hours before a forecasted rain event.