

## WATERING SYSTEMS

### IRRIGATION CLOCK



The simplest and most economical way to reduce runoff from any turf lawn is to adjust your irrigation clock. Experiment with your system until you find the minimum amount of water which provides maximum plant health.

### LEAKS

Irrigation systems may spring leaks, causing severe runoff and increasing your water bill. To locate a leak, first turn off all running water inside and outside



your home. Locate your water meter; usually found in the sidewalk in front of your property.

You should see a triangle, the flow indicator, at the top of the meter. If the flow indicator is moving, you may have a leak. Shut off the anti-siphon valve. If the flow indicator has stopped moving, your irrigation system could have a leak. If the flow indicator is still moving, you may have a leak inside your home.

An undetected irrigation system water leak can cause damage resulting in substantial repair costs. A leak the size of a pencil point can allow 6,000 gallons of water a month to be lost. Residents are responsible for finding and repairing leaks on their property.

### PREVENTATIVE MAINTENANCE

Both sprinkler and drip watering systems need to be checked regularly to ensure they are working properly and that all parts of the system are intact and functioning. Early discovery of system problems prevents unnecessary water loss and higher bills.

## CONSERVATION

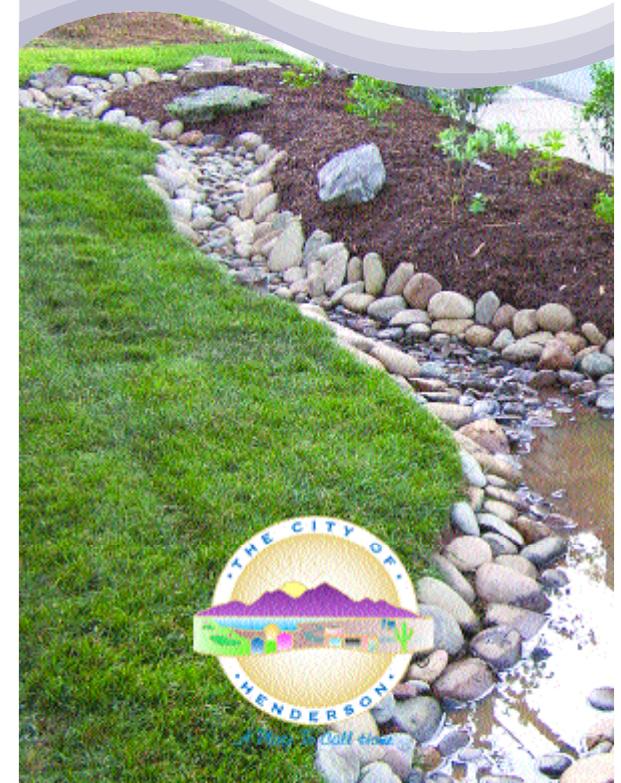
For more information regarding the City's conservation efforts, visit our website at [HendersonKnowsH2O.org](http://HendersonKnowsH2O.org) or contact the Conservation Section at (702) 267-5950.



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# know your H<sub>2</sub>O

preventing water waste  
from irrigation runoff



# PREVENT RUNOFF BY CAREFUL USE OF WATER, SOIL AND GROUNDCOVER

Irrigation runoff and the resulting water waste can be eliminated by making simple changes in three key areas: water, soil and groundcover. Even landscapes situated on a severe slope will benefit from these changes.

## WATER

The standard recommendation for spray irrigation is four minutes per cycle, but in some areas, especially on a slope, the duration may need to be significantly reduced to prevent runoff. Rather than three cycles of "four minutes on, four minutes off," try the burst and soak method.

### BURST AND SOAK

Turn on your irrigation system and time how long it takes for runoff to begin. If it begins within thirty seconds, divide the watering time into several thirty-second to one-minute bursts of watering, with soak times of one hour or more in between. This allows time for sprayed water to soak in and be absorbed by the turf.



Begin with several cycles and systematically reduce the number of burst cycles until the lawn stays healthy with the least number of soakings. This trains the turf to use water more efficiently, maintaining optimum plant health with minimum water.

More plants die from overwatering than under-watering in our valley's residential areas, so take your landscape to the limit and train your turf and plants to use their roots.



## SOIL

Our region's exceedingly dry and compacted soil can cause the runoff of more than half the water used for irrigation, especially on a slope. Soil aeration can remedy the problem.

### AERATION

Aeration punches small holes in your soil, creating space for roots to expand, and allowing the water, oxygen and nutrients your turf needs to thrive to better infiltrate the soil. To maximize the use of water sprayed onto turf, aerate soil annually using a push-aerator.

## GROUNDCOVER

Increasing groundcover, other vegetation and reseeding your lawn improves soil absorbency and establishes better turf health, especially on a slope.

Seed-germination blankets are an excellent way to encourage turf to take root on steep slopes. Adding plants or shrubs around the perimeter of turf areas and reseeding your lawn not only reduces runoff and helps anchor soil, it also improves the appearance of your landscape.

### BEFORE YOU RESEED

When reseeding your lawn or establishing new plants, begin with generous but gentle irrigation methods such as drip irrigation and hand watering.

If you must use automated spray irrigation to establish new vegetation, first contact the City of Henderson Conservation Section prior to reseeding or planting, to request a temporary day of week watering schedule exemption. This will allow you to water outside your assigned watering days for up to 30 days. Time of day exemptions cannot be granted, meaning you are not allowed to water between 11 a.m. and 7 p.m., May 1 through September 30.



## MULCH

In non-turf areas, mulch provides a protective covering of organic matter such as leaves, straw, or peat. Placed around plants it prevents moisture evaporation, growth of weeds and reduces runoff while protecting plant roots from the desert's extreme temperatures.

