

What Should I Expect from my Landscape/Irrigation Contractor?

- 1. The company should have an irrigation professional certified by an EPA WaterSense labeled certification program on their staff or have a relationship with one. Irrigation is a highly specified field and requires a trained individual to properly manage and maintain it. Find one here: https://www.epa.gov/watersense/find-pro
- 2. If the property is a large commercial or homeowners' association account, the contractor should review water usage on a monthly basis and discuss any significant changes in use with the board or property management.
- 3. Contractor should monitor systems for leaks and sprinkler failures at each visit following property maintenance. The contractor should watch each irrigation zone run to ensure heads have not been misdirected or damaged during maintenance. Damaged or misdirected heads should be repaired at time of discovery or flagged for follow up repair.
- 4. Contractor should regularly use a soil probe to measure soil moisture and adjust irrigation scheduling as needed.
- 5. The contractor should seasonally adjust the irrigation clock in the spring, summer and fall, and fully winterize your system every winter.
- 6. The contractor should have soil tested and properly amended prior to seeding, sod installation, landscape conversion, or seasonal plantings.
- 7. Yearly walks of the property should be conducted with the property owner or manager and the contractor.
- 8. The contractor should be familiar with potential incentive programs.
- 9. The contractor should be familiar with watering rules in your jurisdiction.
- 10. The contractor should have an allowance for "routine" landscape improvements and irrigation system repairs in the original estimate.