

IRRIGATION INSTALLATION GUIDELINES

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Irrigation is the most difficult and most important part of a water efficient landscape.

TIPS TO START YOUR PROJECT:

1. An irrigation plan must be designed and installed before plants area planted.
2. When to use drip irrigation:
 - a. Larger shrubs and trees
 - b. When homeowner or gardener will maintain it well
3. When not to use drip irrigation:
 - a. In high foot traffic areas
 - b. In areas with gophers, coyotes and other thirsty wildlife
 - c. If no one knows how to maintain it
4. When to use overhead sprinklers:
 - a. When area is grass or groundcover to pop up heads can reach high enough to provide good distribution
 - b. Use MP Rotating heads for slower, more even coverage. Great for clay soil and slopes.
5. How to water a newly planted garden:
 - a. Initially water new plants often and to the root zone. Make sure the soil does not get too dry for too long or plants may suffer.
 - b. After 6 months, reduce frequency of watering and increase the duration to get the water deeper into the soil to the now more mature root zone.
 - c. Adjust irrigation with the plant size.
 - d. Adjust irrigation with the seasons.

IRRIGATION DESIGN INFORMATION:

Consider hiring an irrigation specialist for this part of your project. If you want to do it yourself, there are several helpful websites:

<https://www.rainbird.com/homeowners/free-sprinkler-design-services>

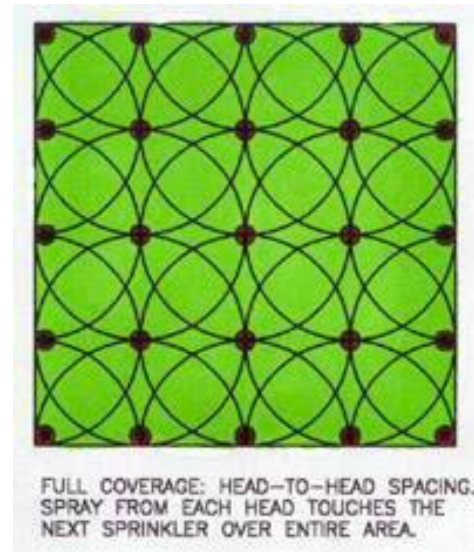
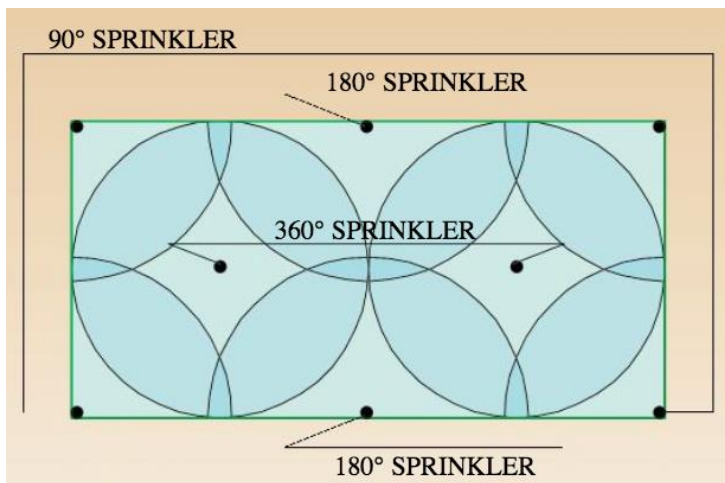
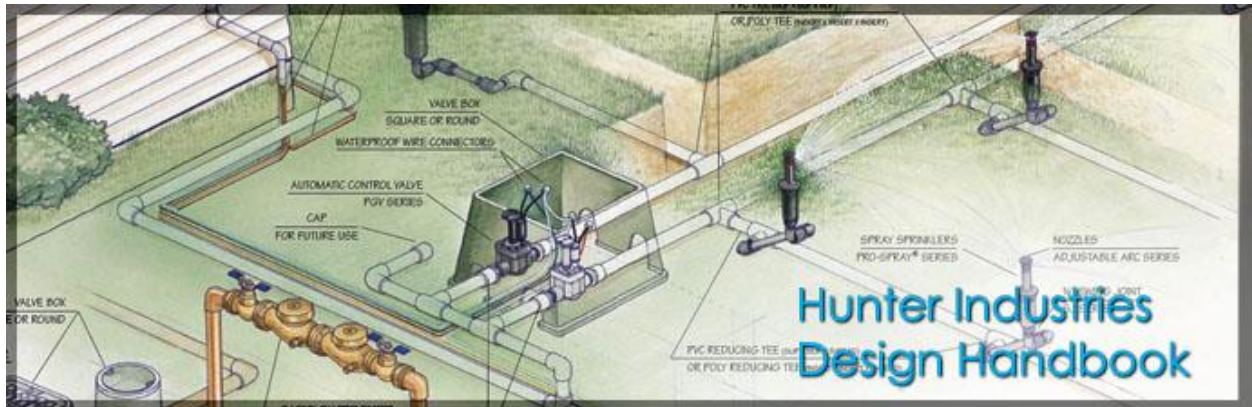
<https://design.orbitonline.com/>

<https://www.hunterindustries.com/residential-system-design-guide>

TIPS TO KEEP IN MIND WHILE DESIGNING & INSTALLING:

1. Design for safe and easy maintenance. Don't place heads in hard to get to places. Don't have heads too high where they will be kicked or tripped over.
2. Design for the fully mature plant. Don't put 6" pop-up heads in front of a plant that will be 4' high. The plants beyond that area will not get water and die.
3. Make sure you have good and even coverage or you and your dead plants will regret it later.
4. Don't mixed your drip and overhead sprinklers on the same zone.
5. Don't mix your spray heads on the same zones.

- a. Rotors spray far and hard versus MP rotating sprinkler heads that slowly spray large droplets.
- b. Rotors use 30% to 50% more water every minute than MP rotating sprinkler heads
6. Make sure you have filters on your drip valves.
7. Pay extra for stronger pipes (ie: schedule 40) and make sure you glue your pipes together securely.
8. Consider flow sensors and a master valve.
9. Study solid and long term reliable irrigation designs before begging your work





Dead areas
are from poor
coverage due
to low
pressure

WATERING SCHEDULE

1. Initially you will water your baby plants more often and not very deep (as deep as the root zone)
2. Within 3 to 6 months, irrigation days can be reduced and the number of minutes increased to get the water to the deeper mature root zone
3. Within a year or two, time for irrigation days can be reduced and the number of minutes increased to get the water to the deeper mature root zone
4. Seasonal adjustment and/or turning off the controller is important to keep in mind.
5. Consider a smart controller if you are not the type to adjust your irrigation on a regular basis.
Please know
6. Hydrozone These types of controllers need
7. There are several website to help give you a starting point for your irrigation schedule:

<https://www.bewaterwise.com/calculator.html>

http://whentowater.loripalmquist.com/prop_info.php?Submit.x=73&Submit.y=30

8. Keep track of your watering schedule with an irrigation schedule sheet (example below):

						Date:	
Controller Area:		Start Time:			Start Time:		
Valve #	Area Name	Minutes	Station	Days	Minutes	Station	Days
1							
2							
3							
4							
5							
6							
7							
8							
9							
10							
11							
12							
13							
14							
15							
16							
17							
18							

9. Check your sprinklers monthly for breaks, broken heads, etc. See CalWEP's irrigation maintenance section for more information