



Invest in an irrigation system

Using an automated irrigation system is one of the best ways to keep your lawn and flower beds beautiful and healthy, while minimising water use. Plan carefully for a reliable, flexible irrigation system that can expand along with your ambitions for your garden.

💧 **Use components that provide flexibility.**

Different plants have different watering needs. Your system should allow you to apply the right amount of water for each type of plant by the most effective method. There are many different types of sprinklers and drippers that apply different amounts of water per hour over different size areas. Good design will match these to your garden's watering requirements.

💧 **Install excess capacity.**

Irrigation zones are areas that are watered by the same irrigation valve and plumbing. Installing extra connections now makes it easier and less expensive to expand your irrigation system later.

💧 **Think SMART.**

Include "SMART" irrigation controllers. In their simplest form these are timers that automatically turn water on and off. However more sophisticated systems can also adjust watering based on rain or soil moisture.

💧 **Check water pressure.**

Low or high pressure seriously affects sprinkler and dripper performance; measure your home water pressure and select them accordingly.

💧 **Buy the best.**

Use the best components you can afford to minimise future maintenance and total lifetime cost of your system. The old adage 'you get what you pay for' holds true for irrigation equipment!

💧 **Meet council requirements.**

Most district council town water supply systems require backflow prevention devices (an air gap) to prevent the risk of irrigation system water back siphoning and potentially contaminating the public water supply. Check with your local council as to their requirements.

💧 **Dig deep.**

Install irrigation lines deep enough and record where they are located to protect them from damage from aeration and other lawn maintenance.

💧 **Hire and install carefully.**

Even the best irrigation system won't perform well if installed incorrectly. When looking to hire a designer or contractor, always get multiple bids, check references and confirm all vendors are insured. If you are installing the equipment yourself make sure you know what you're doing!

SMART
WATERING

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