



Purpose:

Proper irrigation design and maintenance improves water quality by reducing fertilizer runoff and leaching, while also reducing water use.

For Irrigation Professionals:
All irrigation professionals installing or maintaining landscape irrigation systems within Alachua County must complete the Alachua County Irrigation Professional Notification Form at www.AlachuaCountyWater.org. To qualify for self-inspection you must be a Florida Water Star AP for Irrigation and Landscape or have the State's voluntary irrigation license.

Approval Process:

Irrigation systems in Alachua County installed after 4/1/16 must be approved by the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) and require:

1. Application Review Form
2. Irrigation system sketch
3. Application Review Fee (\$50 for single family residential and \$100 for other)
4. Inspection Fee (\$85 for single family residential and \$170 for other). The inspection fee is waived for irrigation systems that are self-inspected (see above)

Irrigation System Sketch Must Show:

1. Existing and proposed buildings, driveways, and other impervious surfaces.
2. Existing and proposed vegetated groupings such as turf grass, shrubs, and trees.
3. Location of rainfall shut off devices, irrigation controllers, sprinkler zone valves, wells, backflow prevention devices, rotor heads, spray heads, irrigation zones, low volume irrigation areas, temporary irrigation areas, and high volume irrigation areas.
4. The estimated total landscaped area and areas with high volume irrigation (greater than 0.5 gallon/minute).

The average irrigated yard in Gainesville uses 299 gallons of groundwater a day for a combined use of almost 5 million gallons of water a day! This water comes from the same source which is needed to replenish our springs, rivers, and lakes.

For more information and to register as an irrigation professional, visit www.AlachuaCountyWater.org



Alachua County Environmental Protection Department
408 W University Ave, Suite 106
Gainesville Florida
352-264-6800
www.AlachuaCountyWater.org



Landscape Irrigation Design and Maintenance Standards

**Article VI Chapter 77
Water Quality Code**



A new code affecting all new irrigation systems in Alachua County



Inspection Process:

There are two options for inspection:

1. Inspect the system yourself if you are a Florida Water Star Accredited Professional (AP) for Irrigation and Landscape or if you have the State's irrigation license.
2. Pay the County to inspect the system (\$85 for single family residential and \$170 for commercial, churches, and multi-family).

Florida Water StarSM Certification: Florida Water Star is a voluntary water conservation certification program. Residential and commercial properties obtaining Florida Water Star Certification will exceed the requirements of this Code, so you only have to fill out the review form. All fees and other requirements are waived, unless Florida Water Star Certification is not obtained.

Design Standards: (see code for all standards)

1. The total irrigated area on residential lots shall not exceed 0.5 acres. This provision does not apply to temporary irrigation such as portable hoses and sprinklers.
2. High volume irrigation (greater than 0.5 gallons per minute) area shall not exceed 60% of the landscaped area on lots over 1/8 acre.
3. Narrow areas, four feet wide or less, shall not be irrigated unless correctly installed low volume irrigation (less than 0.5 gallons per minute) is used.
4. High volume irrigation shall not be used for trees, shrubs, or groundcover beds.
5. Turf grass and landscaped beds shall not be irrigated in the same zone.
6. Sprinkler head types, (spray heads, rotors, etc.) shall not be mixed in the same zone, with the exception of bubblers that can be turned off once trees are established .
7. A minimum separation of 24 inches is required between distribution equipment and buildings and other vertical structures, except fences.
8. Systems installed after 10/1/19 must have a functioning soil moisture sensor based controller or weather based controller.
9. No direct spray shall be allowed onto walkways, buildings, roadways and drives.
10. All sprinkler heads with spray nozzles (non-rotary) shall be pressure-regulated at the head, or the valve (manufacture specs must be maintained).
11. Irrigation professionals shall provide the property owner with the site irrigation sketch showing how the system was installed, number of zones, recommended run times, irrigation controller manual, maintenance checklist, irrigation system settings, and recommendations.



Applicability:

Applies to all new residential and commercial automatic irrigation systems and modifications to 50% or more of an existing system within Alachua County installed by property owners or professionals. Applies to all water sources, including reclaimed water.

Exemptions:

The following are exempt:

- Bona fide agricultural activities;
- Vegetable gardens and fruit trees;
- Athletic fields;
- Golf course play areas;
- Cemeteries;
- Nurseries; and
- Temporary Establishment Irrigation (may require an affidavit)

Maintenance:

- Property owners shall ensure the system is inspected at least annually for leaks, overspray, misaligned heads, heads that may be capped, and rain fall shut off device(s) functioning.
- Systems with known leaks shall not be operated until the leaks are repaired.
- Within 60 days after installation, ensure that the controller is adjusted to operate according to irrigation restrictions.