Irrigation / Sprinkler System Settings

Please look at your irrigation timer once you take ownership of your new home. Many new residents have had elevated water bills due to the settings on their irrigation systems, whether it's a previous owner or a builder that is trying to get the new sod to take root.

Many irrigation system timers are set to run twice a day at 10, 15, or 20 minutes per station, in which some homes have 5 to 7 stations to water. That is way too much watering!!! Typically, the average Texas lawn only needs about an inch of water per week. If you're unsure of how long it takes to reach an inch of water, you can put a cup or can in your yard with an inch high marker and then time how long it takes to fill. If dried out areas begin to appear, simply add additional time to the watering schedule in small increments.

Another great tip is to water your lawn either earlier in the morning or later in the evening when the sun is weakest. This will prevent the water from instantly evaporating and going to waste.

What you need to know about your water meter:

Our water meters will allow on average 14 gallons of water *a minute* to enter your property. For an irrigation system, that equates to 14 gallons per minute per watering station (sprinkler head).

For example, if you have 5 watering stations set to run for 20 minutes, that will equal a total run time of 100 minutes. Multiply your minutes of run time by the 14 gallons a minute and you are using 1,400 gallons of water *just for that one session*! If you had this exact setting programmed to run once a day (7 days a week), you will use 9,800 gallons a week or approximately 39,200 gallons per month. The cost for that much water would be about $266.72 a month and that doesn't include the regular water usage that is happening inside your home.

As you can see, one can put a lot of water on the yard in a week or a month's time.

How to figure out your settings:

Use the math equation of

- (# of stations) x (# of minutes to run) = (total run time)

- (total run time) x 14 gallons per minute = (total usage per watering session)