

**T
O
D
A
Y**

**NOT JUST
COURIER SERVICE**

• Docs • Groceries
• Mail • Trees
• Animals • Shrubs

**JUST
NAME IT**

Call 352-978-7902



Do it "Right" the first time.

By Al Torrello of Al Torrello Irrigation

"How to conserve water and money with a sprinkler system."

I have been designing and installing residential and commercial irrigation systems in central Florida for over twenty years and welcome this opportunity to share some of my expertise with you.

Design it Right

An efficient irrigation system is one that works properly all the times. Invest your money in a good design and a knowledgeable contractor at the beginning of your project. A contractor who takes into consideration the unique water requirements of your landscape and local Central Florida weather conditions.

- Plan your irrigation zones carefully. Be sure that your system will have enough capacity to water the plant types that make up your landscape. The more irrigation zones you plan for the more tailored the watering schedule can be.
- Use the best components you can afford.
- Check the water pressure. High or low water pressure can seriously affect system performance.

Contract it Right

A vital step in creating a high quality, efficient irrigation system is choosing the right irrigation contractor. Make sure the contractor is experienced and licensed to install irrigation systems in Minneola.

- Is the contractor properly insured? Ask to review a copy of their liability and Workman's Comp. coverage.
- Check the contractor's references.
- Obtain several bids. Understand the differences between them. The lowest bid may not be the best.

Install it Right

When installing a new system, use components that will provide the greatest flexibility in watering your landscape. Different types of plants have different watering needs that may change with time. Your system should allow you to apply the right amount of water for each type of plant by the most effective method.

- Always install excess irrigation zone capacity. Installing extra connections now makes it easier and less expensive to expand your system later.
- Install the required backflow prevention device. Minneola City Code and the National Plumbing Code require this for all irrigation systems. Your contractor is your best source of information here.
- Install lines at the correct depth. Irrigation lines should be installed at a depth where aeration and other lawn maintenance will not interfere with them.

Landscape it Right

A well-designed landscape and a well-designed irrigation system need to work well together to maximize savings.

- Use turf and plant species appropriate to our Central Florida climate whenever possible.
- Consider the soil type in each zone. Practice "hydro-zoning" by grouping plants with similar water needs close together.

Water it Right

Watering at the right time of day, when the sun is low the winds are calm and temperatures are coolest will save a lot of water, as much as 30%, by reducing evaporative losses. The best time to water is late afternoon, evening and just before sunrise.

- Saturate the root zone. That's usually in the top six inches of soil. Watering too frequently results in shallow roots, weed growth, disease and fungus.
- Check your Minneola and St. John's River Water Management District watering schedules and requirements.
- Take careful aim. Be sure your sprinklers are not watering driveways, sidewalks, patios, or buildings. It's all water down the drain.

Finally, remember that saving water is in every homeowner's best interest. You save money and help conserve the local water supply and assure yourself a beautiful landscape.