



SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

NEWS RELEASE

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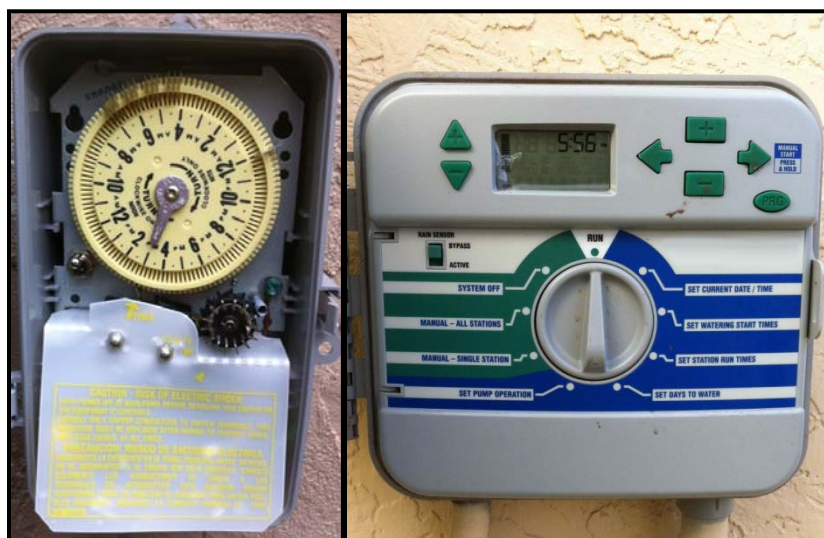
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Wet Season Start: It's Time to Reset Irrigation Timers

Water conservation remains important even during summer months



West Palm Beach, FL — With the start of South Florida's wet season, rainfall alone is beginning to quench the needs of most lawns and landscapes. This means irrigation system timers at homes and businesses in the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) can be dialed back to fewer days, shorter watering times or shut off altogether to conserve water for the future.

Irrigation system timers are often set for the dry winter months and forgotten, leading to sprinkling even during typical wet-season downpours. During an average wet season, from June through October, many lawns receive what they require and don't need supplemental irrigation at all, according to the University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS).

Adjusting timers can make a difference because outdoor irrigation accounts for up to 50 percent of water use in South Florida, and up to 50 percent of the water applied to lawns is lost to evapotranspiration. Installing rain sensors or soil moisture sensors to automatically shut off an irrigation system when enough rain has fallen and checking the pipes and sprinkler heads for leaks are also key conservation tools.

In addition, residents can conserve water and still enjoy a tropical landscape by following Florida-Friendly Landscaping principles. These include planting the right plant in the right place, utilizing mulch and reducing stormwater runoff. More information is available at www.floridayards.org.

Because water conservation offers significant benefits, the SFWMD Governing Board in September 2008 approved a Comprehensive Water Conservation Program to encourage more responsible use of water resources throughout South Florida. Numerous stakeholders worked with the District to define specific regulatory, voluntary and incentive-based programs and in-depth education and marketing efforts that help to foster a year-round conservation ethic.

Simple water conservation practices include:

- Washing only full loads of clothes and dishes;
- Replacing aerators in kitchen and bathroom sinks with models rated for 1.5 gallons per minute or less;
- Installing low-flow appliances, such as a dishwasher or energy-efficient washing machine;
- Installing low-flow water fixtures, such as showerheads with the WaterSense logo.

While reducing irrigation time during the wet season is encouraged, residents and businesses remain under the District's Year-Round Landscape Irrigation Rule that limits residential and business landscape irrigation to two or three days per week based on location. To determine watering days and times in your area, contact your local government or visit www.sfwmd.gov/2days.

For more information:

- [Sensible Sprinkling in South Florida](#)
- www.savewaterfl.com

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About the South Florida Water Management District

The South Florida Water Management District is a regional, governmental agency that oversees the water resources in the southern half of the state – 16 counties from Orlando to the Keys. It is the oldest and largest of the state's five water management districts. The agency mission is to manage and protect water resources of the region by balancing and improving water quality, flood control, natural systems and water supply. A key initiative is cleanup and restoration of the Everglades.