OPENING YOUR IRRIGATION

Many of our customers have asked us to provide them with instructions to start-up their own system in the spring and we encourage homeowners to be hands-on with their irrigation system as much as possible.

We do recommend hiring Waterwell to perform an annual inspection and to make any adjsutments to the system that a homeowner may not be equipped to do. This ensures proper coverage of your property and optimal watering allowing you to get the most out of your irrigation system.

Openings are generally done between April 15th and June 15th, based on our ever-changing climate. Our preferred method is to open the system as early as possible and leave the timer off until it's time to water come mid-May. Spring is often a wet season be aware that over-watering can damage lawns as severely as under-watering can.

This pamphlet is designed to guide you through the steps of opening your own irrigation system. If at any point, you decide that you would rather a Waterwell technician take over, simply place a request with our Customer Service team. We encourage autonomy but are certainly always here to help!

When you're ready to begin, we recommend setting aside a minimum of 30-45 minutes to complete the opening. This will give you sufficient time to make sure your system is started correctly and ready to water.

Six Simple Steps to DIY Success

1) Familiarizing yourself

Start by reviewing the layout of your irrigation system by reviewing your plan. If you don't have a copy, request one from our Customer Service team (if applicable)

2) Locate the irrigation valve.

The valve on most systems is similar to those shown in the images above. The valve will be installed on copper pipe leading to the outside of your house. Valves can also be installed on a plastic pipe called pex which is typically white. The valve handle can be any color. Popular ones include blue, yellow and orange. If Waterwell closed the water supply, you should find your valve handle with a Waterwell tag, tied to the pipe with a colored tie-wrap. Cut the tie wrap and re-attach the valve handle with the bolt.

3) Turn on the water

Once re-assembled, turn the valve handle very slowly until it won't go any further. You should hear water rush through the pipe. This is your home supplying water to the outdoor irrigation.

4) Verify outdoors

Go outside and check for leaks and sprays. If several heads are spraying, there is an open valve. Valves look like the photo above and can be found in the green boxes dug into the lawn or gardens. Lift the box lid and locate the small black screw on the top of the valve. Finger-tighten it and the water should stop flowing from the heads. You can also try to tighten the solenoid which is pictured above with the 2 wires protruding from it. If not, you'll need to call for service.

5) Set your timer

Replace the battery in the timer and plug it in.

Set the date and time and do a manual run of each zone so you can verify the sprinklers. The majority of timer manuals can be found in the FAQ section of our website or you can ask our Customer Service team to email you a copy of the manual. Once you've completed your manual runs, program your timer's watering schedule.

As basic guidelines, we recommend the following while taking into consideration the watering by-laws, if any, put in place by your municipality:

- Large heads (rotating): 45-90 minutes, every 2-3 days
- Small heads (pop-up): 20-30 minutes, every 2-3 days
- Drip line: 3-4 hours, every 2-3 days
- Drip emitters (flower pots) 3-4 minutes, 1-2 times per day
- Fill-ups (pool/pond): 3-5 minutes, daily

6) Check your sprinklers

Do a visual check of your lawn and gardens. Look for accumulations of water which could indicate a leak in the system. Observe your sprinkler heads to make sure they are:

- Popping up all the way and retracting
- Spraying in the correct direction
- Are positioned as straight as possible.
- Rotating properly (if applicable)
- Not leaking

Once you've completed the steps above, if any repairs are required, make a note of the issue and it's location. Contact our Customer Service team and we'll arrange for a technician to come and complete the repair. If no repairs are required, you'll be able to enjoy the summer weather knowing that your lawns and gardens are being taken care of.

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