

In sun-drenched California, an underground irrigation system is a great investment. If you’re looking to install a sprinkler system or upgrade your current one, keep these tips in mind:

1. Save a buck, set a plan. Draw a diagram of your backyard. Indentify different components that require watering. If you haven’t done much landscaping yet, draw grass, trees and flowers where you would like to plant them.
2. One size doesn’t fit all. Different soil and grass types require different quantities of water and routines. For example, instead of watering shrubs with the spray from a sprinkler head, consider a drip system that slowly releases water at the roots.
3. Water wisely. Common mistakes lead to a higher water bill or a brown yard. When placing a sprinkler, make sure it doesn’t overshoot and water the sidewalk, driveway or fence.
4. Call, then dig. Gas pipelines, power lines, telephone utilities and sewage lines may be sitting underneath your backyard. Always dial 811 before you dig to locate where utilities are on your property if they exist.
5. Don’t ignore the symptoms! Keep an eye out for signs your system is overwatering, underwatering or missing the mark completely. Dry grass and standing water mean you have a problem.
6. Get a diagnosis. If you see signs of overwatering, it’s possible an area is receiving spray from more sprinklers than intended. Worse, you may have a leaky valve, head or pipe. Rotor heads failing to rotate is another common problem.
7. The pressure’s on! Or is it? Irrigation systems are sensitive to water pressure, and, consequently, so is your lawn. High water pressure can lead to bursting pipes, sprinkler nozzles flying off or a misty spray that quickly evaporates and floats away in the breeze. Low pressure might mean the sprinkler heads don’t pop up properly or spray effectively, leaving landscaping dry.

Want more advice on how to get your yard market ready? Give me a call. I’ll help you make smart decisions to get the most out of your home sale.

A Quick Guide To   
Irrigation Systems

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