



Change Your Clocks, Check Your Sprinklers

Save Our Water, the state's largest water conservation program, is recommending Californians check their sprinklers the weekend of Sunday, March 9, when they change their clocks to Daylight Saving Time.

We may lose an hour of sleep of that weekend, but we can save significant amounts of water by using Daylight Saving Time as a reminder to check our sprinkler systems for leaks and to reset our timers.

Many people don't realize that more water is used—and wasted—outdoors than indoors and sprinkler systems are the biggest culprit. Stopping leaks and setting sprinkler timers correctly will save a significant amount of water, helping stretch the state's supply during this water crisis.

Here are some steps for checking your sprinkler system:

- Replace the battery, if there is one, in the sprinkler timer and reset the sprinkler timer, if needed, to adjust for Daylight Saving Time.
- Check the timer settings to determine the number of days and minutes the system is watering the lawn and gardens. Compare these times with the recommendations of local water agencies to determine if the sprinkler system is overwatering landscape or not providing sufficient water for plants to thrive.
- Take advantage of the lower evaporation rates when temperatures are cooler by watering in the early morning or in the evening. Watering during the cooler parts of the day can save 25 gallons each time you water.
- Run the sprinkler system to ensure all the sprinkler heads are working and spraying the lawn – not the house, sidewalk, driveway or street. Resetting the sprinkler heads to deliver the water where it is needed can save 12 to 15 gallons each watering cycle.
- Look for perpetually damp spots in the yard or places where water pools because these could be a sign of a leak in the sprinkler system.
- If a leak is suspected, check the water meter before and after a two-hour period when no water is being used. If the meter does not read exactly the same, a leak is likely the cause for the change.

Small changes can make a big difference when it comes to outdoor watering and landscape maintenance practices.

