

OUTDOOR LEAK + HIGH USAGE CHECKLIST

1 Check Valve Boxes

When your irrigation system isn't running, open the valve box located in the front, on the side, or in the back of your home.

If you see any of the following, you may have a leak:

- ☐ **Pooled water** – heavy rainfall can also fill valve boxes so look for bubbles or ripples that indicate a flow of water
- ☐ **Wet areas underneath valves**
- ☐ **Sound of water running or 'hissing' noises** – when your system is off, water should not be moving through it



2 Check Yard for Signs of Irrigation Mainline Leaks

If any of the following is happening in your yard, you may have a main line leak:

- ☐ **Pooling water**
- ☐ **Flowing water**
- ☐ **Soft, "squishy" areas**
- ☐ **Sunken areas**



Check Your Irrigation System While it is Running

Use your controller to manually turn on your irrigation system. This is really the only way to make sure that no water is being lost to lateral line leaks, broken heads, leaking heads, etc. You can also check the website for a self-assessment tool by visiting <https://www.eccv.org/rebatesoutdoor> and scrolling to the very bottom of the page.

Check each zone/station for 1-2 minutes. Any of the following could mean there's a leak:

- ☐ Areas of extreme pooling water
- ☐ Spongy or swampy areas in your grass
- ☐ Areas that are significantly greener than others, mushrooms sometimes indicate excess water in an area
- ☐ Take note if heads are not popping up completely – very low pressure could mean a broken line
- ☐ Check drip system areas for louder sounds of water running
- ☐ Areas in rock or mulch with pooled water, water bubbling up or moss growth in one spot
- ☐ Check for missing pieces in drip lines (if small emitter parts pop off, water will stream or shoot out instead of drip as intended)
- ☐ Leaking or pooling water in valve box when system is running

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4 Check for Inefficiencies in Your Sprinkler System

Inefficiencies in your sprinkler system can prompt overwatering which has the potential to raise your bill without helping your grass.

Look for the following common issues that lead to overwatering:

- ❑ Overspray that causes water to pool or flow across concrete
- ❑ Obstructed/blocked sprays
- ❑ Different types of sprinkler heads in the same zone –
- ❑ Different heads distribute water at different rates leading to overwatering and underwatering
- ❑ Dry spots near sprinklers or in abnormal areas – this could indicate broken or malfunctioning heads.



5 Monitor Your System's Controller

Make sure to check the following to avoid any watering inefficiencies.

- ❑ Check controller for start times. Make sure extra programs are not scheduled to run. Programs are usually located by a button with A, B, C, etc. or as an option on the dial. Switch to each program and check for start times.
- ❑ Adjust watering times based on the watering times card and seasonal requirements. You can find the updated watering times card on the website at <https://www.eccv.org/wateringschedule>