

# Irrigation and Leaks



Let the rain do the heavy lifting and turn your irrigation off

1

Water no more than twice a week in the dry and never when it's wet.

2

Check your irrigation to make sure the water is going on your lawn where you want it and not on hard surfaces like driveways and garden paths.

You can avoid this by fitting half and quarter-circle jets in your system.

3

Recent trials found that eight per cent of Townsville homes have undetected leaks. Check your water meter regularly to make sure you're not wasting water and money.

4

Misting irrigation can cause water losses of up to ninety per cent during windy conditions.

Larger droplet sizes thrown lower to the ground are better choice.

5

Turn your watering system off during the wet season. Townsville lawns usually get more than enough water from December to March.

6

Some irrigation systems have settings you can adjust according to the season. Try using them to make sure you don't harm your lawn by watering too much.

7

Always check your system for leaks before switching it back on after the wet season, otherwise you could be using more water than you realise.

8

To get the most out of your irrigation systems and sprinklers they should have a low trajectory and larger droplet sizes. This will increase how much water makes it to your soil.

9

If you're laying new turf remember to adjust your system's settings after your lawn's been established.

10

Tests carried out in Townsville have found that many automatic irrigation systems use more than twice the amount needed for a healthy lawn (25mm per week when it's dry). To find out how much your system uses, time how long it takes to fill a container to 25mm, and use that as a guide for planning your weekly watering schedule.

11

Think about reducing how much water you use in shady areas like along fences, under trees and against your home. Areas that don't get the full sun don't need as much watering because they can retain more moisture.

You usually need more water in the centre of your lawn because it gets higher temperatures and wind.

## Quick tips

### Maintaining your irrigation system

1

Redirect sprinklers to apply water to only landscaped areas and avoid footpaths and driveways.

2

Check the points where your sprinkler heads connect to underground pipes. If water pools in your yard, you have wet patches, or you can hear unusual noises in the ground you could have a leak in your system. Get it fixed fast!

3

Inspect your sprinkler heads and make sure they're free from dirt, ants, or anything else that can block them.

### Did you know?

Townsville has the largest irrigation network in the southern hemisphere? More than half of Townsville homes have automatic irrigation systems, and the largest portion of our wasted water locally comes from these types of systems.

Following these simple tips can make sure you're getting the most out of your irrigation system and your water use.

- Make sure your system is correctly set, well maintained and uses sprinkler heads that are suitable to Townsville's conditions.
- Check that automatic systems are turned off when it's raining, adjusted throughout the year to make sure your lawn is getting the right amount of water.
- Inspecting the automatic system regularly to make sure everything's working how it should, especially after they have been turned off for a few months during the wet season.

### Spruce up your sprinkler system

#### INSPECT

sprinkler heads. A broken one can waste 95 kilolitres of water in six months!

#### SELECT

a Smart Approved Water Mark labelled irrigation

#### CONNECT

hoses and pipes well.

A leak as small as the tip of a pen can waste 24 kilolitres of water per month!

#### DIRECT

Avoid spray on landscapes, not pavement.

