



LAWN IRRIGATION – WATERING THE YARD

Watering your yard will increase your water usage on your water portion of the bill so be mindful of a few things as we go into the summer months.

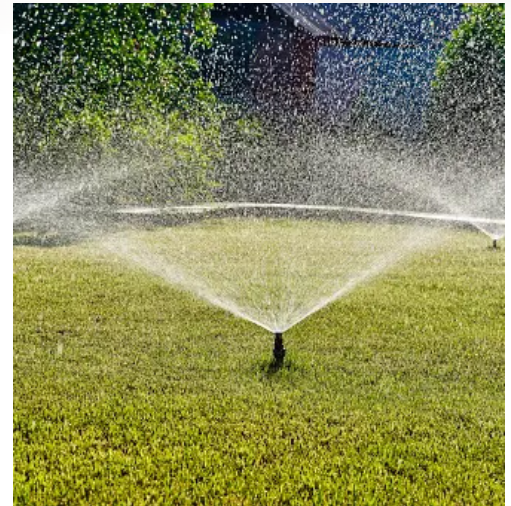
If you have an irrigation system, please check the settings a few times a year to make sure the system is operating properly. Power outages may cause your system to revert to factory settings. Periodically walk around your yard to check for any signs of leaks at sprinkler heads and to make sure that you are not over-watering your yard.

If you use a hose and sprinkler head, please check the hose connection to the spigot to make sure that you do not have leaks at the connection due to a failed gasket or the connection not being properly tightened and for any holes in the hose itself.

Remember if you have an irrigation system, your backflow preventer must be tested by a certified backflow tester every year.

Lawrence Utilities is required by Indiana state Law (327 IAC 8-10) to “implement monitor and enforce a cross-connection control program”. Both state and local regulations state that the property owner is required to have this test performed by a certified backflow device tester possessing a valid certification issued by Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM), and to submit the test results to our office. All irrigation backflow devices are required to be tested when the irrigation system is turned on for the season and must also be property tagged by the certified tester.

A backflow device ensures that water cannot reverse flow back into the City’s potable water system. There are many documented cases of contaminated water being introduced into the public water supply due to backflow/back-siphonage conditions, causing widespread illness and, in some instances, even death. This is a very important issue, and one which the utility takes very seriously



and encourages its customers to do so as well. If you do not plan to activate your system, be mindful the backflow still must be tested or abandoned. For information on how to abandon please call the Business Office at 317-542-0511. If not in compliance, the utility by law will be forced to disrupt the water service to the property.

PERFORM ROUTINE INSPECTIONS ON YOUR INTERIOR PLUMBING!

It is very important to perform routine inspections of your interior plumbing to catch leaks as soon as they start to prevent costly repairs and property damage. Periodically check under your sinks in the kitchen and bathrooms to see if you notice any signs of a leak from the valves or supply lines that run to your faucets. Small leaks will eventually turn into larger leaks, and these will cause your water bills to increase as well as cause damage to your property.

Perform a visual inspection of your water

heater to look for any signs of leaks at the connection points or at the base of the water heater. Always use caution around a water heater and do not attempt to make repairs yourself! You can be seriously injured if you do not know what you are doing. Call a plumber if you see issues that need to be addressed.

Common sources of leaks in a household include but are not limited to:

Water faucets—leaky faucets are typically caused by worn gaskets.

Water hoses—Rubber hoses can crack as they age. Continued exposure to the elements can damage garden hoses and the plastic tubing of drip irrigation systems. Washing machine hoses are another potential source of significant water loss and—on the rare occasion they burst—property damage.

Toilets—There are several ways that toilets can leak. For example, when the tank doesn’t fill completely, water will run continuously.

THE LAWRENCE LIFT

PERFORM ROUTINE INSPECTIONS CONT.

Sometimes jiggling the flush handle will correct the situation. Slow leaks sometimes develop between the tank and the bowl, between the water supply fitting to the toilet or when flappers are no longer seated correctly. A flapper is the device at the bottom of the tank that prevents water

from flowing into the bowl until the toilet is flushed. If your toilet is leaking at its base, it could be because its bolts aren't fully tightened or because the seal between its base and floor has been damaged.

Broken irrigation lines and water pipes– Sprinkler and Irrigation system pipes can

become damaged. Tree roots and debris can clog and break water pipes. Freezing weather followed by heat spells can burst or damage pipes above or below ground, causing significant water loss and property damage.

DON'T FORGET TO ESTABLISH YOUR EYEONWATER ACCOUNT!

If you have a water meter that supports the EyeOnWater App you can set up your account and the app can be used to let you know how much water you're using, send alerts that water has been used for 24 hours continuously that may indicate you have a leak, and can tell you when you use the most water during the day.

Please contact the Utilities Business Office to see if your meter is supported by the EyeOnWater app and if you need assistance in setting the app up at 317-542-0511.



CUTTING THE GRASS.....

We are in the season of grass cutting, we would like to encourage residents to avoid blowing their grass clippings into the street. These clippings get washed down the gutter in rain events and contribute to the clogging up of storm sewers, resulting in drainage backups.

Residents should also avoid allowing these clippings to accumulate in ditches and

drainage swales, where they accumulate and prevent the proper movement of surface drainage to where it is supposed to go.

Picking up trash that has accumulated in the gutter and in storm water ditches will also help prevent clogging and allow the storm water to get where it is supposed to go.



CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY IN LAWRENCE

As mandated by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), all public drinking water systems are required to compile an inventory of all water service lines in their systems and identify the pipe material by October of 2025.

The purpose of this inventory is to identify any lead service lines that may be in the water distribution system so they can be removed and replaced with the proper pipe materials. While we can safely eliminate many of the water service lines



in the city by the date they were installed, we still must physically identify water service line pipe materials in the areas of the city where the houses were built in 1973 or earlier.

You will see our contractor (Conexco Inc.) in those areas of the city performing "potholing work" to confirm the pipe materials on the "unknown" service lines.