

Post Wood Municipal Utility District

Irrigation System Rules

adopted August 20, 2009



These Irrigation Rules are based on the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality adopted changes on June 4, 2008 to the Landscape Irrigation Rules and the Licenses and Registration.

Two major goals of the new irrigation rules are to protect the quality water that comes out of your tap and to encourage conservation by proper installation of irrigation systems.

**Water District Management (WDM)
Operator for District**

281.376.8802



Water District Management

Post Wood MUD

Irrigation System Regulations

Regulations given:	_____
BF inspection date:	_____
Rain sensor:	_____
Complete:	_____

Texas Administrative Code (TAC) Chapter 344, Rules for Landscape Irrigation (Effective Jan. 1, 2009).
The following items are required for any new irrigation system or one undergoing major repair or alteration.

Backflow Prevention is required on every irrigation system connected to the water supply. The District's operator will determine, according to the Rate Order, which type of devices are approved according to the level of hazard.

- ◆ All backflow prevention devices must be tested upon installation by a licensed tester. Test results are to be delivered to the District Operator within 10 business days.
- ◆ All backflow prevention devices used in health hazards applications must be tested annually thereafter.

The following regulations are required for any new irrigation system or one undergoing major repair or alteration including installing a breakflow prevention devise.

- ◆ **Notifying the District:** The customer is responsible for notifying the District's operator of installation or a major repair or alteration to an irrigation system on his property.
- ◆ **Licensed Personnel:** Beginning January 1, 2010, either a licensed irrigator or a licensed irrigation technician must be on-site during the time irrigation system is being installed. Prior to this date work must be supervised, but not necessarily onsite, by a licensed irrigator. An exception to this rule is that a property owner may install his own system.
- ◆ **License Number:** All vehicles used in the performance of irrigation installation, maintenance, alteration, repair, or service must display the irrigator's license number in the form of "LI_____" in a contrasting color of block letters at least two inches high, on both sides of the vehicle.
- ◆ **Irrigation Plan:** An irrigation plan or copy of a plan (electronic or paper version) prepared by a licensed irrigator, drawn to scale, that covers the entire area to be irrigated must be maintained on the job site at all times. The plan must include, at a minimum, the following information: the irrigator's seal, signature, and date of signing, all major physical features and the boundaries of the areas to be watered, a North arrow, and a legend.
- ◆ **Isolation Valves:** All new irrigation systems must include an isolation valve between the water meter and the backflow prevention device.
- ◆ **Master Valve location:** If an irrigation system has an automatic master valve it must be installed on the discharge side of the backflow prevention assembly.
- ◆ **Rain Sensors:** Sensors or other technology designed to inhibit or interrupt operation of the irrigation system during periods of moisture or rainfall must be installed.
- ◆ **Hose bibbs:** If a hose bibb is connected to an irrigation system the hose bibb must be installed using a quick coupler key on a quick coupler. Such hose bibbs and quick connects must be installed in a covered purple valve box and be labeled "non-potable, not safe for drinking." An isolation valve must be installed upstream of a quick coupler connecting a hose bibb to an irrigation system.

A home or property owner who installs an irrigation system on his property must meet the standards on: backflow protection, spraying water over impervious materials, rain or moisture shut-off devices, isolation valves, spacing, and water pressure.

Listed below are some of the irrigation regulations that the District may not inspect but are required by the State of Texas. The District encourages residents to review these regulations so they can ensure that their system is installed according to recent changes to Texas’s Irrigation Rule, 30 TAC 344.

To obtain the complete list of Irrigation Regulation, verify an Irrigator’s license, or file a complaint on an Irrigator go to the website at www.tceq.state.tx.us/nav/compliance/land_irrigate.html.

The following are some of the regulations that are required but will not be inspected by the District:

- ◆ New irrigation systems must not spray water on the hardscapes such as sidewalks, roads, fences, or buildings.
- ◆ Pop-up sprays or rotary sprinkler heads must direct flow away from any adjacent surface and **must not be installed closer than four inches from a hardscapes (sidewalks, roads, etc.)**.
- ◆ Irrigation systems shall have separate zones based on plant material type, microclimates, topographic features, soil conditions, and hydrological requirements.
- ◆ PVC pipe and fittings must be primed with a colored primer prior to applying the PVC cement.
- ◆ Piping must be installed to provide minimum depth coverage of six inches of select backfill.

More technical requirements include:

- ◆ Emission devices must be installed to operate at the minimum and not above the maximum sprinkler head pressure as published by the manufacturer.
- ◆ The maximum spacing between emission devices must not exceed the manufacturer's published radius or spacing of the device(s).
- ◆ Piping in irrigation systems must be designed and installed so that the flow of water in the pipe will not exceed a velocity of five feet per second for polyvinyl chloride (PVC) pipe.
- ◆ Irrigation zones must be designed and installed so that all of the emission devices in that zone irrigate at the same precipitation rate.
- ◆ Methods to achieve the water pressure requirements include, but are not limited to, flow control valves, a pressure regulator, or pressure compensating spray heads.

Upon completion of installation a customer will receive (at a minimum):

- ◆ a copy of the irrigation plan showing the actual installation including all changes to the plan
- ◆ a maintenance checklist stating but not limited to:
 - seasonal watering schedule based on current/real time evapotranspiration (ET) or monthly historical ET data, monthly effective rainfall estimates, plant and site requirements
 - a list of components used including the nozzles, filters, requiring maintenance and the recommended frequency for the service
- ◆ a final "walk through" explaining the operation of the system
- ◆ a permanent sticker containing the irrigator’s name, license number, company name, phone number, and the dates of the warranty period attached to the controller