


OUTDOOR FEATURES

Using a Certified Professional for Irrigation Systems Design, Installation, and Auditing

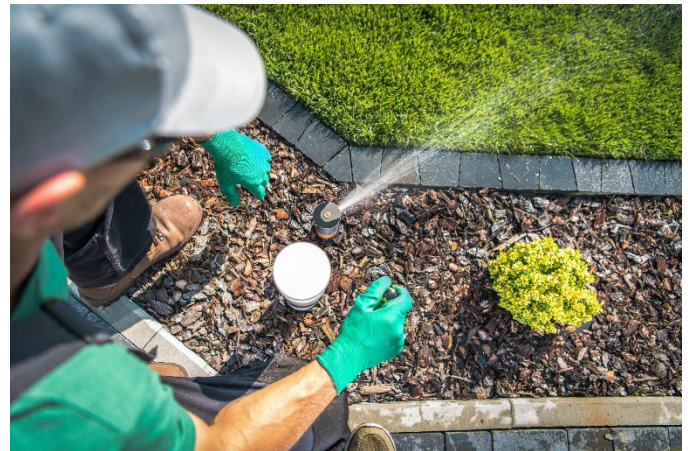


 **Optional Water Efficiency Measure:** May contribute to the 30 percent water efficiency requirement, depending on the chosen WaterSense® Approved Certification Method (WACM).



UNDERSTAND

- It is essential to properly design and install a landscape irrigation system for optimal water efficiency.
- WaterSense has labeled certification programs for irrigation professionals in three categories: system designers; installation and maintenance professionals; and auditors. These individuals have passed a comprehensive exam covering general irrigation subjects, as well as specialized areas related to water efficiency.
- Certified irrigation professionals can address the following topics:
 - **Design:** Customize the irrigation system to suit the landscape and local climate conditions.
 - **Installation, maintenance, and repair:** Select and service the appropriate equipment and site layout. Schedule the irrigation system to optimize performance.
 - **Audit:** Examine the irrigation system to ensure that it performs efficiently.



Benefits and Real-World Results

Irrigation professionals certified by WaterSense labeled programs help save water and maintain healthy and beautiful landscapes across the country by maximizing the efficiency of an irrigation system. WaterSense's Certified Professionals in Action web page at www.epa.gov/watersense/certified-professionals-action showcases these professionals and describes the benefits of their expertise. Check out the stories to learn how a certified professional can help your property save water.



BUILD

- **CONTRACT** with an irrigation professional certified by a WaterSense labeled program to design and install the irrigation system. Identify certified professionals using WaterSense's Find a Pro tool at www.epa.gov/watersense/find-pro or, if one is not available in your area, look for a professional who has other training or professional certifications that address water efficiency or sustainable landscaping.
- **ASK** potential irrigation professionals questions to evaluate their knowledge of water-efficient irrigation, referencing WaterSense's list of suggested questions to ask an irrigation contractor at www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2017-01/documents/ws-outdoor-questions-for-landscape-contractors.pdf when engaging in these conversations. For example, ask contractors about minimizing water waste in the landscape and listen for some of the following suggestions:

- **CHECK** sprinklers for breaks or leaks. Ensure that water is being delivered to its intended destination.
- **TEST** the irrigation system to ensure the zones are programmed correctly.
- **CREATE** an irrigation schedule that can be easily adjusted by season.
- **SCHEDULE** an irrigation audit by a certified irrigation professional after an irrigation system has been installed.



VERIFY

- **CONFIRM** whether an irrigation professional certified by a WaterSense labeled program was used for irrigation system:
 - Design
 - Installation and controller scheduling/programming
 - Auditing
- **USE** the Find a Pro tool at www.epa.gov/watersense/find-pro to verify credentials.

**NOTE: Consult with the Home Certification Organization for specific verification protocols.*

Learn More

Visit WaterSense's Irrigation with Pro web page at www.epa.gov/watersense/irrigation-pro to learn more about irrigation professionals certified through WaterSense labeled programs.



Multifamily Makeovers

Certified irrigation professionals can provide tailored advice to property managers at multifamily complexes, which have different considerations than single-family residences:

- **Homeowners association:** The residential community of Harvest Gold Village in Loveland, Colorado implemented the recommendations of a certified professional to save more than \$22,500 in water bills in the first year of the project. To learn more, read the case study at www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2021-06/documents/ws-commercial-outdoor-casestudy-harvest-gold-case-study.pdf.
- **Apartment complex:** The La Paloma Apartments in Albuquerque, New Mexico, used the results of a landscape audit conducted by certified professionals to update its irrigation system and, along with other water efficiency upgrades, saved over five million gallons of water in the first year. To learn more, read the case study at www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2021-03/documents/ws-outdoor-la-paloma-case-study.pdf.

