

water rings

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Buried Utility Lines

We often remind you to call PA One Call at 8-1-1 (or 1-800-242-1776) **before** you begin any project that will disturb the earth with powered equipment. This is important because knowing the approximate location of your buried lines before each digging project helps protect you and others from injury. This service is provided free of charge by your utilities.

Utility workers responding to PA One Call will mark the location of their lines using different colors of paint, to represent their particular utility.

- Red = electric power lines, cables conduit and lighting cables
- Yellow = gas, oil, steam, petroleum or gaseous materials
- Orange = communication, alarm or signal lines, cables or conduit
- Blue = potable water
- Purple = reclaimed water, irrigation or slurry lines
- Green = sewers and drain lines

It is important that these marks remain visible and unaltered until all excavation in the area has been completed. Removing, moving or otherwise tampering with marks for underground utility lines can cause interruption of service to you and your neighbors and may result in costly repairs that could increase your monthly utility bills. It could also result in injury or even death to those in the immediate vicinity.

Tampering with these underground facility marks, even those on private property, is a violation of the Pennsylvania Utility Line Protection Act 287, as amended. Conviction can result in a fine of up to \$50,000, or imprisonment of up to 90 days, or both, not to speak of any civil liabilities in the matter. If you witness or suspect that someone has tampered with underground facility marks, please immediately notify Pennsylvania One Call by dialing 8-1-1.

**Safe Digging Is No Accident:
Always Call 811 Before You Dig**

Swimming Pool Safety

Now that summer is here, private and public pool owners, as well as pool management companies, should remember that pool and chlorinated wastewater must be handled responsibly.

Old water must be disposed of properly and wastewater containing chemicals such as chlorine and muriatic acid should be neutralized.

Where allowed, the wastewater should go into the sanitary sewer - not into storm sewers. If sanitary sewers cannot be accessed, the wastewater should be hauled off-site for disposal at an approved treatment facility.

When chlorinated water is drained from a swimming pool into a storm sewer, it quickly makes its way to a stream or other body of water, where aquatic life is damaged or killed. Discharging swimming pool water to Pennsylvania's waters without a permit violates the Clean Streams Law, and property owners and pool companies who violate this law may be prosecuted and penalized for damages.

For more information, or to view the PA Swimming Pool Wastewater Guidelines, visit:

www.dep.state.pa.us
keyword: pool wastewater



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This Issue

PA One Call 1
Handling Pool Water

Spruce Up Your 2
Sprinkler System
Q & A - Gardening in
Dry Times



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Time To Tune Up Your Home's Irrigation System!

Homes with automatically-timed irrigation systems use about 50 percent more water outdoors than those without. Your system can waste even more if it's programmed incorrectly, a sprinkler head is pointed in the wrong direction, or you have a leak.

Simple Tips for Sprucing Up Your Sprinkler

When it comes to a home's irrigation system, a little maintenance goes a long way. A home with an automatic irrigation system that isn't properly programmed or maintained can waste as much as 30,000 gallons of water annually. A broken or missing sprinkler head could waste as much as 25,000 gallons of water and more than \$90 over a six-month irrigation season.



Spruce up your irrigation system by remembering four simple steps—inspect, connect, direct, and select.

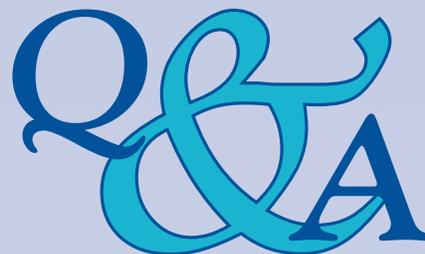
Inspect. Check your system for clogged, broken or missing sprinkler heads. If you're not the do-it-yourself type, go with a pro - look for an irrigation professional certified through a WaterSense labeled program.

Connect. Examine points where the sprinkler heads connect to pipes or hoses. If water pools in your landscape or you have large wet areas, you could have a leak in your system. A leak about as small as the tip of a ballpoint pen (or 1/32nd of an inch) can waste about 6,300 gallons of water per month.

Direct. Are you watering the driveway, house, or sidewalk instead of your yard? Redirect sprinklers to apply water only to the landscape.

Select. An improperly scheduled irrigation controller can waste water and money. Update your system's watering schedule with the seasons, or select a WaterSense labeled controller to take the guesswork out of scheduling.

You can save even more water outdoors by incorporating water-smart landscaping principles into your landscape design. And you can find more tips by visiting the WaterSense website at www.epa.gov/watersense/outdoor.



Q: *How can I help my garden and landscaping survive a dry summer?*

A: For many gardeners the past few years have been a challenge. Since a prolonged dry period or drought can strike any year, anywhere, it makes sense to come up with a sustainable plan to help your garden survive through the driest summers.

When it comes to watering your garden, how you water is as important as how frequently you water, especially during dry periods. Oversaturating your garden can lead to soil and important nutrients running off your garden, along with wasting precious water. The most efficient way to irrigate is to apply low volumes of water at a slow rate to allow plants to absorb it properly.

Timing is also important. Watering early in the morning is the best because water will evaporate fast in the midday heat. If conditions are extremely hot and dry, it can also be beneficial to give your plants a little water in the late afternoon or early evening to relieve their stress.

Micro-spray and drip irrigation can help you water more accurately and effectively. Drip irrigation allows you to apply water directly to the root zone of your plants, which is where they need it most. Many of these systems can be placed on a timer so you don't have to worry about getting up at dawn or rushing home at night to water at the optimal time.

Put back into your soil what you take from it. Adding compost or other organic matter periodically can help amend dry soil and retain more water. Adding mulch around plants once they've sprouted can also help conserve water. A layer of mulch can prevent weeds from sprouting and stealing water from your plants and it can also keep the soil cooler to slow evaporation.

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