

Eight ways to waste water
with an automatic lawn
sprinkler system,
and what to do about it.



Problem	Cause	Solution
Spray Heads Misting	Pressure too high at nozzle	Reduce nozzle pressure to 30 psi with regulators installed downstream of zone valves (best) or regularly adjust flow control valves.
Drift	Wind	Operate system early in the morning. 3-7 am is very good, 4-6 am is even better
Runoff	Exceeding the soil's infiltration rate	Water in short cycles giving the water time to soak in or convert to equipment with a lower precipitation rate.
Leaching	Overwatering to the point that water moves below the target root zone and is unavailable to the plants	Know your soil, plant water requirements (ET), and how fast your system puts out water. Take advantage of rainfall by using sensors or shutting off system when not needed. Adjust your timer for the season.
Poor application uniformity	Interference, poor spacing	Insure heads are spaced according to the manufacturer's recommendations. Raise or replace heads that don't clear vegetation.
Overspray	Poor adjustment of nozzles	Adjust nozzles to keep spray off non-landscaped areas.
Geysers or puddling	Broken or stuck heads	Regular maintenance
Poor clock management	Thinking all zones are alike. They're not.	Know the precipitation rate for each zone and adjust according to each zone's needs.



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