

STATE LICENSE GENERALLY REQUIRED FOR IRRIGATION CONTRACTORS

Irrigation contractors are now generally required to have a State license. However, the exemptions from the license requirement include:

- Federal and State agencies working on public property.
- Property owners performing work on their own property.
- Where the price of all contracts for labor and material is under \$2,500.
- Licensed landscape architects, engineers, general contractors, etc.
- Irrigation for certain construction, agricultural and nursery operations.

For more information, please contact the NC Irrigation Contractors' Licensing Board at:

P.O. Box 41421, Raleigh, NC 27629-1421
919-872-2229; fax: 919-872-1598;
e-mail: info@nciclb.org; www.nciclb.org

QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS?

We welcome your questions and feedback! Please feel free to contact us at 968-4421 or webmaster@owasa.org; visit or write to us at our offices at 400 Jones Ferry Road, Carrboro, NC 27510; or visit our website, www.owasa.org.

CONSERVATION REQUIREMENTS

In normal conditions, spray irrigation is limited to one inch per week. Irrigation systems are also required to have rain or moisture sensors.

If irrigation water flows onto someone else's property or into the street right-of-way (including the road shoulder, sidewalk, etc.) this overwatering is considered water waste, which is prohibited under local ordinances and OWASA's conservation standards.

Please visit the Water Conservation section of our website, www.owasa.org; or contact us at 968-4421 or webmaster@owasa.org for more information.

WATER WASTE



Irrigation systems should be installed, maintained and operated so that water does not run off onto other properties or street right-of-way areas including sidewalks, road shoulders and roadways.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Under State law, irrigation systems connected to the OWASA system on lots platted and recorded after July 1, 2009 must have a separate water meter.
- Our system capacity or "service availability" fee for an irrigation-only meter is based on the historical level of demand for irrigation-only service, which is higher than conventional residential water demand.
- Our monthly charges for irrigation-only water service include (a) a charge per 1,000 gallons, and (b) a flat fee based on meter size.
- Because of the potential for water in or from irrigation systems to flow back into the OWASA public water system in some conditions, OWASA has for several years required all new and existing irrigation systems to have a "backflow prevention" device.
- Our backflow prevention program is designed to protect the public water supply from water that may become contaminated after it has passed through the OWASA system.
- Under State law, irrigation contractors are generally required to have a State license.
- A plumbing permit from the local inspections department is required for installation of an irrigation system.

400 Jones Ferry Road, Carrboro, NC 27510
(919) 968-4421; webmaster@owasa.org
www.owasa.org

IRRIGATION SYSTEMS



A "backflow prevention" device, above, helps protect public drinking water from contamination.

- ◆ **Separate meter required for new irrigation systems on lots platted after July 1, 2009**
- ◆ **Irrigation fees and rates**
- ◆ **Backflow prevention requirements**
- ◆ **NC licensing of irrigation contractors**
- ◆ **Plumbing permit requirements**

 Orange Water and Sewer Authority

A public, non-profit agency providing water, sewer and reclaimed water services to the Carrboro-Chapel Hill community

SEPARATE METERS REQUIRED FOR NEW IRRIGATION SYSTEMS ON LOTS PLATTED AFTER JULY 1, 2009

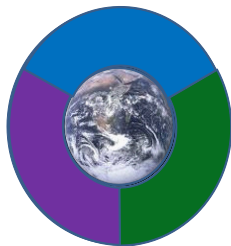
Under a State law, in-ground irrigation systems connected to the OWASA system on lots platted and recorded after July 1, 2009 must have a separate water meter. (Separate meters are not required for existing irrigation systems.)

For information on having an OWASA irrigation-only meter installed, please contact our Engineering and Planning Department at (919) 537-4214.

LOCAL PLUMBING PERMIT REQUIREMENTS

The N.C. Plumbing Code requires a permit from the local inspections department for installation of an irrigation system. In most of our service area, the Chapel Hill or Carrboro Inspections Department issues permits and does inspections.

The Chapel Hill Inspections staff can be reached at (919) 968-2718 or inspections@townofchapelhill.org. Carrboro Inspections/Zoning can be reached at 918-7336 and Orange County Building Inspections at 245-2600.



WATER IS A PRECIOUS RESOURCE.

SYSTEM CAPACITY FEE FOR IRRIGATION-ONLY METERS

We charge a system capacity or “service availability” fee to cover the cost of the water supplies, treatment facilities, pumps, piping, etc. necessary to provide service to an irrigation-only meter. This fee is based on historical experience with water demand by irrigation-only customers, which is higher than normal residential demand.

For information on the service availability fee for an irrigation meter, please contact OWASA Engineering at (919) 537-4214 or webmaster@owasa.org, or visit the Rates/Budget section of our website, www.owasa.org.

INSTALLATION FEE FOR AN IRRIGATION METER

For information on the installation fees for an irrigation-only meter, please contact OWASA Engineering at (919) 537-4214 or webmaster@owasa.org, or visit the Rates/Budget section of our website, www.owasa.org.

MONTHLY FEES FOR IRRIGATION-ONLY SERVICE

Our monthly charges for irrigation-only water service are (a) a charge per 1,000 gallons of water use, plus (b) a flat monthly fee based on meter size. For current rates, please contact OWASA Customer Service at 537-4343 or webmaster@owasa.org, or visit the Rates/Budget section of our website, www.owasa.org.

In water shortages due to droughts, etc., surcharges apply to our water rates. In a water shortage, we may also shut-off irrigation-only service. If we turn off service, we do not bill the flat monthly service charges.

BACKFLOW PREVENTION REQUIREMENTS

For various facilities and water uses including irrigation systems, we require customers to install “backflow prevention” devices.

These devices are designed to protect the public water system from potential contamination by water that has passed from our public water pipes into or through a private plumbing system or private equipment.

Backflow prevention devices are required at a residence if there is an irrigation system or swimming pool.

The flow of water from a private system back into the public (OWASA) water system could occur under special conditions such as a major water main break or firefighting.

For more detailed information about our backflow prevention program, please contact us at (919) 968-4421 or webmaster@owasa.org, and/or visit the “Construction” section of our website, www.owasa.org.

We have information including:

- the type of backflow prevention device that is needed,
- required initial testing of a new irrigation system and annual testing by a certified person,
- our list of certified testers, and
- required filing of the annual test report by a certified person.

At our Construction webpage, please see “Standards and Policies for Construction” for links to our Cross-Connection Control (backflow prevention) Ordinance and Manual.

CHECKING FOR LEAKS IN IRRIGATION SYSTEMS

We recommend that you, or the company that maintains your irrigation system, regularly check it for leaks.

If allowed to continue, a leak can waste a large amount of water-- and dollars.

Please note that we do not make account adjustments for leaks in irrigation systems.



A BROKEN SPRINKLER HEAD CAN WASTE MUCH MORE WATER THAN A LEAKING FAUCET.