

WHO CAN PERFORM THE IRRIGATION ASSESSMENTS FOR THIS PROGRAM?

An [Austin Water Authorized Irrigation Inspector](#) must perform the assessment.

HOW OFTEN ARE THESE ASSESSMENTS DUE?

Assessments are due **every two years** based on service address:

- Odd-numbered service addresses are due in odd-numbered years
- Even-numbered service addresses are due in even-numbered years.

The [specific due date](#) within the year is based on zip code

WHEN CAN THE IRRIGATION ASSESSMENT TAKE PLACE?

Properties can complete the assessment up to 90 days before the due date.

CAN I GET THE DUE DATE EXTENDED IF THE PROPERTY NEEDS MORE TIME TO PASS AND SUBMIT THE ASSESSMENT?

Yes, but you must:

1. Turn off the irrigation system; and
2. Submit a [Compliance Plan](#) stating that the system will remain off until you submit a passing inspection. You must submit the Compliance Plan before the due date to avoid any potential fines.

WHAT DOES THE IRRIGATION ASSESSMENT ENTAIL?

It is a station by station irrigation system inspection that looks for City of Austin defined [water waste](#), which includes:

- Leaks in the irrigation system
- Misting due to high pressure
- Broken emitters
- Runoff/ponding
- Spray landing in street or parking lot

IF I HAVE AN IRRIGATION SYSTEM THAT IS NEVER USED, DO I NEED TO GET IT INSPECTED?

No, but you must submit a [Compliance Plan](#) to Austin Water stating that the system is not used. Staff will verify irrigation status through water usage history and water waste reports. You must submit a passing irrigation assessment before you can use the system again.

WHERE AND WHEN DOES AUSTIN WATER SEND NOTICES FOR THIS PROGRAM?

Austin Water mails all notices to the water account holder's mailing address. The water account holder is the one responsible for ensuring a property is in compliance with program requirements.

Austin Water sends notices four and two months before the assessment due date. It also mails a Notice of Violation to delinquent properties the day after their due date.

WHAT HAPPENS IF REQUIRED PAPERWORK IS NOT TURNED IN BY THE DUE DATE?

If Austin Water does not receive required documentation by the due date, it will assess a \$200 fine followed by a \$25 a day accrual until you submit the documents. Austin Water assesses the fines to the property's water bill.

I AM CURRENTLY BEING FINED. HOW DO I STOP THE FINES FROM ACCRUING AND GET IN COMPLIANCE?

To stop fines from accruing and get in compliance:

1. Turn off the irrigation system.
2. Turn in a [Compliance Plan](#) stating that the system will remain off until you can submit a passing inspection (*Fines stop accruing as of the date you submit the compliance plan*).
3. Schedule an [Austin Water Authorized Inspector](#) to inspect the system.
4. Submit a passing inspection to Austin Water (*Once a property submits a passing assessment, it can turn the irrigation system back on*).

WHAT DO I DO IF I ONLY WANT TO OPERATE PART OF THE PROPERTY'S IRRIGATION SYSTEM?

You will need to submit the following to Austin Water:

- A passing assessment for the stations that are operational;
- A [Compliance Plan](#) stating what part of the irrigation system will not operate; and
- A map showing where the abandoned stations are.

WHAT IF MY PROPERTY USES A WATER SOURCE OTHER THAN POTABLE WATER?

Submit a [Does Not Apply form](#) stating that the property does not use potable water. But, if you use potable water as a backup (for example, to fill a rainwater tank during dry periods), you must submit a passing inspection.

WHAT IF I THINK MY LOT SIZE IS LESS THAN AN ACRE?

Austin Water uses a property's lot size as listed in the local tax appraisal district. This may be different from the size of the irrigated area. If you believe Austin Water selected your property in error, please submit a [Does Not Apply form](#). Staff will verify the size information with the appropriate appraisal district.

MY RECENTLY INSTALLED IRRIGATION SYSTEM WENT THROUGH THE NEW CONSTRUCTION PERMITTING/INSPECTION PROCESS. DOES IT STILL NEED AN INSPECTION FOR THIS PROGRAM?

Not yet. It is in compliance for two years from the date the inspection for the City of Austin permit took place.