Q: Have you ever come home to find your microwave clock has reset?

Even a momentary power-loss is enough to reset electronic clocks and timers.

To protect against this, many irrigation systems have a backup battery, designed to save timer settings in the event of a temporary loss of power.

Q: When was the last time you checked your irrigation clock backup battery?

**DO IT RIGHT!**

☑️ If your timer is equipped with a backup battery, periodically check or change the battery.

☑️ Periodically check irrigation settings, especially in the event of thunderstorms, power surges, or power loss, as these events can reset programming.

☑️ If you have unplugged your timer, be sure to check the settings before running it again. Without a charged backup battery, timers often reset to factory default settings.**

**Important Note: Factory default settings vary widely, and can often result in unintended excess irrigation and/or violation of county watering ordinances. ALWAYS check your settings after losing power or unplugging the system.**

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**OVER-WATERING Mature Landscaping:**

Once fully established, many trees and shrubs do not need weekly watering!

**DO IT RIGHT!**

☑️ Turn down / off individual emitters for well-established trees & shrubs. (Often, this involves a simple clockwise adjustment at the top. Check the manufacturer’s instructions or consult an irrigation professional.)

**Important Note: If adjusting emitters, check to ensure that they ONLY water trees/shrubs – not grass!**

☑️ Turn down / turn off entire ZONES for well-established trees & shrubs.

**Important Note: As with turning off emitters, check to ensure that the zone ONLY water trees/shrubs – not grass!**

☑️ Add mulch around landscaping to help trap moisture and keep the soil cool.

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**Mowing less? It’s growing less!**

Q: Did you know that plants (including turf grass) need less water in the cooler winter months?

That’s right! During the cooler months, you can use the Seasonal Adjustment on your irrigation system to reduce your irrigation by up to 50%. Alternatively, you can try skipping a week between waterings. And remember, if you’re mowing less, IT’S GROWING LESS!

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Turf-grass & landscape irrigation represents the single largest use of water for Florida homes. Irrigation systems can use in excess of 1,000 gallons for each hour they run.

Keeping the lawn green can use an impressive, and sometimes surprising, amount of water! (And that’s when you’re doing it right!) Make sure you’re not making these common mistakes & using FAR too much water...
According to UF/IFAS research, a typical St. Augustine lawn requires once-per-week watering at ¾”*. That equals about 2 gallons for every square foot of lawn, each month. Just to put that into perspective...

@2 gal. / sq.ft. / month =

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lawn (sq.ft)</th>
<th>Water Required* (gallons)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>2,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5,000</td>
<td>10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>20,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20,000</td>
<td>40,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(*Note: During cooler winter months, water requirements are significantly reduced.)

Now, what happens if you doubled those amounts? How about tripled?? Unfortunately several common irrigation mistakes can result in the *unintentional* use of double or triple the amount of water needed to keep the lawn healthy and green... Such mistakes don’t just waste water, they can also harm the lawn you’re trying to keep green!

Read on to find out how to avoid the Most Common Irrigation Mistakes...

(i.e. DON’T DO THESE!!!)

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**Multiple Programs (A/B/C)**

An irrigation timer will run **EVERY active program.** (i.e. - not just the one that is currently selected on the display.)

For example, let’s look at the following scenario:

**Program A**
- Day/Time: Mondays, 1:00am
- Run-times: 20 min. per zone for 3 zones
  =60 min total

**Program B**
- Day/Time: Mon. & Tues., 1:00am
- Run-times: 40 min. per zone for 3 zones
  =120 min total

**Dial/switch is set to Program C:**
- Day/Time: OFF
- Display shows: OFF

Note: Programs A & B will continue to run, regardless of whether the dial/switch is currently set to Program C (OFF).

In fact, in this scenario, where two programs have overlapping start-times, the Monday Programs would typically “stack,” or run consecutively.

**How it happens:**

With the dial set to “Program C,” the screen displays “OFF,” and the homeowner may assume that they have turned off their irrigation system. However, “OFF” refers only to Program C! Programs A & B still contain active programming which will continue to run – regardless of whether the dial is pointed at A, B, or C!

Q: So let’s say you have 5 zones, and mistakenly program 5 start-times (thinking that a start-time is needed for each of your 5 zones...) What would happen?

A: The entire program (all 5 zones) will run, then re-start, then re-start, then re-start, then re-start! *(That’s a LOT of water!)*

---

**DO IT RIGHT!**

- Always delete un-needed irrigation programs when making changes to irrigation schedules.
- Check unused programs to ensure that all other days and start-times are set to OFF.
- To completely turn the system OFF, turn the dial or switch to the main OFF position.

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**Multiple Start-Times**

Like multiple programs, this very common mistake is easy to make, and even easier to overlook. And like the previous error, this one can result in thousands of unintended gallons being used!

**How it happens:**

Often, this mistake is the result of confusion between the terms: “start-time” and “run-time.” Programs get a start-time. (Just one.) This tells the system when to turn ON and begin running this Program.

Within the Program, each zone/station gets a “run-time.” The run-time tells the system how long to run the zone before continuing on to the next. Once the system turns on, **EVERY ZONE that has a “run-time” will run, in order.** (So, if you want a zone to run, give it a run time...)

Q: What happens if you program 5 start-times?

A: The entire program (all 5 zones) will run, then re-start, then re-start, then re-start, then re-start! *(That’s a LOT of water!)*

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**DO IT RIGHT!**

Remember it this way...

- Programs get start-times.
- Zones/Stations get run-times.