

# DIY Sprinkler System Checkup

When it comes to efficient sprinkler system use, avoid using the "set it and forget it" approach. A simple sprinkler system checkup can help you find sneaky leaks and reduce water waste. Use the checklist below to get started and visit [SqueezeEveryDrop.com](https://www.squeezeeverydrop.com) for a full DIY sprinkler system checkup guide and how-to videos.

- Set your controller to the correct odd or even watering day based on your address.**

Oklahoma City observes year-round odd/even watering measures.

- Reduce your runtimes.** Consider the water needs of the plant material in each of your zones. Bermudagrass lawns typically only need 1" of water per week during July in OKC.

- Remove hidden programs or extra start times.**

Check each program and zone to make sure you aren't accidentally watering when you weren't expecting to!

- Do a visual check of the system.** Run each sprinkler zone for 2-3 minutes while you look for leaking or broken heads and valves, high or low pressure, and pooling water. Flag and fix any issues, or turn the system off until repairs can be made.

# 7 Steps to a Water Smart Landscape

A low-maintenance, water smart landscape requires the right combination of plants, soil, sunlight and water.

A few simple changes can add up to big water savings. Visit [SqueezeEveryDrop.com](http://SqueezeEveryDrop.com) for more water smart tips.

## Planning & Design

Note areas of sun, shade and general drainage patterns to decide the best plants or design features for each area of your yard.

## Soil Improvement

Test your soil and improve quality by adding compost. Check with your county's Extension office for more info on soil testing.

## Turf Planning

Select turfgrass species adapted to Oklahoma's climate, like buffalograss or bermudagrass.

## Plant Selection & Placement

Select Oklahoma native or adapted plants and group together based on watering needs. Check out the plant database on [SqueezeEveryDrop.com](http://SqueezeEveryDrop.com) to get you started.

## Mulch Cover

Top off your planting beds with a 2-3" layer of mulch to help retain soil moisture and prevent weed growth.

## Irrigation

Prevent overwatering by watering deeply and infrequently. More info on sprinkler systems on the back of this insert.

## Maintenance

Raise your mowing height and don't bag your grass clippings to help retain moisture and organic material in your lawn.