



TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
LANDSCAPE IRRIGATION
PROGRAM


HIRING LICENSED PROFESSIONALS FOR LANDSCAPE IRRIGATION

Homeowners



How is our customer service? tceq.texas.gov/customersurvey

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What You Need to Know

- **Ignore any ads for irrigation services that don't include the irrigator's license number.** It should be something like "LI0123456".
- When receiving bids, invoices, and warranties make sure they include the **irrigator's name, license number, business address, and telephone number.**
- When purchasing a new irrigation system, **ask for a copy of the state required irrigation design before any installation begins.** This helps ensure there will be adequate coverage, pressure, and flow. Be sure to get a copy of the final "as-installed" design after it is completed.
- **Licensed irrigators must carry their license and display the number clearly on their vehicle** while performing irrigation services. Ask to see their license if it isn't properly displayed. An irrigation license holder must be onsite during any installation or repair.
- To avoid fines, **ask your irrigator if the system complies with all state and local codes** including any currently active water restrictions such as "day of the week" and "time of day" watering.

Consequences of Using Unlicensed Irrigators

- Individuals performing irrigation services without a license typically lack appropriate insurance which can result in **homeowner liability for damages to people and property.**
- Irrigation system water is considered non-potable because it can be contaminated by lawn chemicals and animal wastes. Without appropriate backflow prevention assemblies installed and tested by a licensed professional, this **water can travel into your home and cause severe illness.**
- Cheap quotes are not always better. Unlicensed irrigators often cut costs by using the **wrong equipment or substandard layouts** that can result in dead landscaping from dry areas or excessive water runoff. This increases landscape maintenance costs over time.

The Rules

- The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) regulates landscape irrigation in Texas and ***requires* licensing of individuals who perform irrigation services** such as design, installation, repair, and connection to the public water supply.
- To get a license, irrigators **complete state approved training and pass a comprehensive exam and background check.** To renew, they must complete 24 hours of continuing education every 3 years.
- **State regulations specify the design and installation requirements for all new systems.** Ignoring these regulations can result in poor quality and increased water waste.
- Municipalities with a population greater than 20,000 are **required to enact local landscape irrigation ordinances.** Check with your city or town to avoid fines and costly repairs.

CONTACT US

512-239-5296 (LAWN) | install@tceq.texas.gov
tceq.texas.gov/drinkingwater/irrigation