



TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
LANDSCAPE IRRIGATION
PROGRAM

HIRING LICENSED PROFESSIONALS FOR LANDSCAPE IRRIGATION

Property Managers



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

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What are the rules?

- **Landscape irrigators in Texas must be licensed** to perform services such as design, installation, repair, and connection of an irrigation system to the public water supply. They are regulated by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) under Title 30, Texas Administrative Code (30 TAC), Chapter 344.
- To become licensed, irrigators **must complete a minimum of 32 hours of state approved training and pass a comprehensive exam and background check**. They must complete 24 hours of continuing education every 3 years to renew their license.
- **State regulations specify irrigation design and installation requirements for all new systems**. Ignoring these regulations can result in poor quality and more water waste.
- Municipalities with a population exceeding 20,000 are required to enact **local landscape irrigation ordinances**. Failure to comply can result in fines and costly repairs.

What should we do?

- When receiving bids, invoices, and warranties for irrigation services, **verify that the documents include the irrigator's name, license number, business address, and telephone number**.
- Irrigation professionals must carry their license and display their license number on their vehicle(s) while performing irrigation services. **Ask to see the irrigator's license if the number is not properly displayed on the vehicle(s)** during installation.
- **Ask your irrigator if your system complies with all state and local codes** including any currently active restrictions such as "day of the week" and "time of day" watering.

Why use a licensed irrigator?

- Individuals performing irrigation services without a license often lack insurance which can leave **you and your company liable for damage to people and property**.
- Water in the irrigation system is considered non-potable because it can be contaminated by lawn chemicals and animal wastes. Without an appropriate backflow prevention assembly installed and tested by a licensed professional, this **water can travel into a residence causing severe illness**.
- Cheaper irrigation systems are not always better. Unlicensed irrigators often cut costs by using the **wrong equipment or substandard sprinkler layouts** resulting in dead plants and dry areas or excessive water runoff.

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