

City of Yakima
Irrigation Operations
575-6194

The City of Yakima Irrigation Operations delivers water from the Naches River and other local canals to meet the irrigation needs of homes and businesses throughout the community. Because irrigation water is untreated, it may contain items that can cause clogging of faucets and sprinklers.

Here are several suggestions to help you get the best possible irrigation service:

Faucets

To maximize flow from your irrigation service, it is best to use 3/4" "Bent Nose Garden" faucets, which are designed for use with low-pressure and slightly dirty water sources.

3/4" Bent Nose Garden faucets are recommended because they provide good water volume and don't plug easily	Faucets like this are NOT recommended because they plug easily and allow very little water volume through them
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Avoid running irrigation water through a faucet that is partially closed. Unless a faucet is completely open, debris can accumulate inside the faucet and potentially plug off the water flow all together. Position sprinklers to cover desired areas so that the faucet can remain fully open.

Hoses

To make sure as much water as possible gets to your sprinkler, use 5/8" or larger hoses. Smaller hoses, such as 1/2" hoses, restrict water flow too much. You should also try to keep your hose length as short as possible.

Some hoses come with screens in them. While a hose screen might seem like a good idea, it should be removed because the debris in irrigation water can collect on a hose screen very quickly and completely cut off water flow.

Sprinklers

The best sprinklers are low-impact, single-orifice sprinklers such as a “Whiz Head”. These sprinklers are designed to be used with low-pressure and slightly dirty water sources. The orifices are larger so small material will simply pass through the sprinkler.

Some sprinklers come with screens in them. As is the case with hose screens, sprinkler screens should be removed because the debris in irrigation water can collect on a sprinkler screen very quickly and completely cut off water flow.

Sprinklers like a “Whiz Head” are recommended they provide good water volume and don’t plug easily	Sprinklers like this are NOT recommended because they plug easily and require a lot of maintenance to keep clean
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Your Service Lines

When older galvanized lines begin to rust or corrode on the inside of the pipe, debris and mud can more easily stop the flow of water. If this occurs, you can request to have the City’s Irrigation Operations crew blow compressed air through the lines to break up the mud and debris. However, blowing out irrigation lines is only a temporary solution when galvanized lines are rusting or corroding. The permanent solution is to replace old galvanized lines between the City’s shut off valve and your property. Replacement service lines need to be at least 3/4” in diameter.

Rusted ½” Irrigation Line	Irrigation line rusting/corroding closed inside the pipe
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Things You Can Do

Before contacting the City's Irrigation Operations to report low pressure or other irrigation water problems, you should: 1) Check the amount of water coming directly out of faucets; 2) Check to make sure your sprinklers are not plugged; 3) Check to make sure hose screens and/or sprinkler screens are not plugged; 4) Check to make sure any hose splitters you may have are not plugged; 5) Check to make sure no hoses are kinked. These are problems that might exist that you can solve quickly and easily.

The best time to water landscaping manually is early in the morning when there is the most benefit from the water and the competition for watering is at its lowest.

If you have an automatic sprinkler system, set it to water in the early morning hours. This gets the most water on your landscape. For the best results, automatic sprinkler systems should utilize a low-pressure, large-orifice design.

Things We Do



The City of Yakima Irrigation Operations offers the following services to our customers:

- Blow Outs - Using compressed air to clear debris from individual services
- Cut Outs - Shutting off individual services for repair
- Cut Ins - Turning on individual services
- Locating individual shut off valves for properties
- Investigations – Analysis of any irrigation-related problems such as leaks, low pressure, no water, etc.
- Service Replacements- Assistance in the replacement of property owner service lines