

## Winter Irrigation Tips

Now that we are well into the fall season, the City of Horseshoe Bay Utilities Department would like to remind residents that it is time to consider shutting down irrigation systems for winter.

### Reasons to Winterize Your Irrigation System

- **Avoid wasting water:** The weather is cooler and established lawns and landscape plants are going dormant. Landscapes generally don't need more water than the weather provides during the winter months.
- **Protect irrigation components:** This is an opportune time to cover outside hose spigots and insulate backflow prevention devices before any potentially freezing temperatures hit the Horseshoe Bay area. When water freezes, it expands. This expansion puts immense pressure on pipes, valves, and sprinkler heads, causing them to crack or burst. You should also remove batteries from controllers and store them in a dry place.
- **Avoid costly repairs:** Ignoring winterization can lead to expensive repairs in the spring to replace cracked pipes, damaged sprinkler heads, and malfunctioning valves.
- **Protect from landscape damage:** Leaks from frozen pipes can saturate your lawn, leading to muddy areas, soil erosion, and even potential foundation issues.
- **Ensure a smooth start in the spring:** A winterized system is less likely to have issues like low water pressure, leaks, or non-functioning sprinkler heads when you turn it back on.

Should a hard freeze become imminent in the forecast, residents should consider shutting off the main water supply and draining all water from the system to prevent freeze damage in addition to insulating exposed pipes, valves, and backflow preventers. Don't forget to turn off the controller or timer!

By taking the necessary steps to winterize your irrigation system, you protect your investment and ensure it is ready to operate efficiently when the weather is warm again.

To be clear, there is no prohibition on watering in the fall and winter, but why not conserve water and save on utility bills? Residents may return to regular watering on March 1. Currently, Horseshoe Bay is in the Stage 1, twice-per-week watering schedule. View your scheduled watering days by visiting [www.horseshoe-bay-tx.gov/stage1](http://www.horseshoe-bay-tx.gov/stage1).

### Consider Using WaterSmart for Help with Utility Bills

About 25 percent of Horseshoe Bay residents utilize WaterSmart to better manage their water usage, including their irrigation. Now is an ideal time to take advantage of this free, informative program! By participating in WaterSmart, Horseshoe Bay residents can play a crucial role in conserving one of our most precious resources—water!

WaterSmart is designed to help residents monitor and manage their water use effectively. Leveraging advanced technology and data analytics, WaterSmart offers a user-friendly platform that delivers daily insights into water usage patterns, helping identify where users can reduce consumption and save money.

### **Key Features and Benefits**

WaterSmart is your own personal dashboard!

- **Daily Water Usage Tracking:** WaterSmart provides residents with up-to-the-minute data on water use. Users can see how much water they use anytime through an easy-to-navigate online portal. The program offers detailed reports that break down water consumption by various activities, such as irrigation, indoor use, and more, and helps residents understand where their water is going. This real-time feedback is crucial for making immediate adjustments and preventing waste.
- **Personalized Tips and Alerts:** WaterSmart generates customized recommendations and alerts based on individual water use patterns. These range from tips on reducing daily use to notifications about potential leaks or unusual consumption spikes. By receiving timely advice, residents can take proactive steps to conserve water and address issues before they become costly problems.
- **Cost Savings:** Residents can lower their utility bills by monitoring and reducing water use. Identifying leaks and inefficient water use early can prevent expensive repairs and high bills.
- **Environmental Impact:** Conserving water reduces the strain on local water supplies and ecosystems and decreases the energy required to treat and transport water.
- **Community Engagement:** WaterSmart encourages a sense of community by comparing individual water use with similar households in the area. This can motivate residents to adopt sustainable practices and work together towards common conservation goals. A community that actively manages its water resources is better equipped to handle droughts and water-related challenges.
- **Educational Resources:** The program provides a wide range of educational materials on water conservation, including articles and videos. These resources enable residents to understand the significance of water conservation and how they can help preserve this crucial resource.
- **NEW feature:** Set your own water threshold! Control your water usage and bill by setting your own water threshold. Any usage over the threshold will send an alert.

Home Billing Track Take Action **Settings**

Account Settings  
Communication Preferences  
Download Your Data

**Account Settings**

- My Account
- Additional Accounts
- Additional Users

**Communication Preferences**

- Leak Alerts**
- Unplanned Use Notifications
- Utility Connect Messages
- Urgent Notices & Service Alerts

**Communication Preferences**

☒ **Leak Alerts**

You will be notified if we think you have a leak. If your property uses water continuously, tell us [how much](#).

☒ Email  
☒ Text Message  
☐ Voice Message

☐ **Unplanned Use Notifications**

You will be notified when use from your property exceeds your Daily Threshold setting.

**Daily Threshold (Gallons)**

0

**Starts on**  **Ends on** ☐  ☐ Never

☐ Email  
☐ Text Message  
☐ Voice Message

## Sign Up for WaterSmart Today!

To sign up, visit [www.horseshoe-bay-tx.gov/watersmart](http://www.horseshoe-bay-tx.gov/watersmart) or scan the QR Code.



Enter your billing account number and email address. If you need assistance, please contact the Utility Billing Office at (830) 598-8741 and press 1 or email Derek Warren, Water Conservation Inspector, at [dwarren@horseshoe-bay-tx.gov](mailto:dwarren@horseshoe-bay-tx.gov).