



BABCOCK RANCH

Irrigation Insights

The irrigation of our landscaping has been a topic of discussion in Florida for decades. For those of us who have lived in the State during these periods, we have gone through years when we had an abundance of water and years of drought. During the drought there were various measures used to control our usage. We can all remember twice-a-week and odd/even watering days restrictions of watering certain times of the day.

Here at Babcock Ranch our development plan of environmental consciousness comes into play. Our irrigation supply is from one of our lakes. This lake is a combination of surface water run-off and effluent from our water treatment plant. This is an environmentally sensitive way to preserve our natural resource. In addition, we are focused on educating our residents on how to properly irrigate their landscaping. The systems are designed with pop-up sprinklers, rotors, drip heads and bubblers for efficient watering. Our landscapes are designed with native drought tolerant plant material that requires less irrigation.

The following is information in a Q & A format to help familiarize you with your irrigation system in Babcock Ranch.

Who owns and adjusts the irrigation clock?

The irrigation clock whether you live in a Service Area neighborhood or not is owned by the homeowner. The adjustment of the clock is also the homeowner's responsibility. Most irrigation clocks have instructions inside the cover of the box.

Charlotte County has watering restrictions in place. Does Babcock Ranch fall under these restrictions?

Charlotte County has watering restrictions if you use potable (drinking) water to irrigate your landscaping. Babcock Ranch uses reclaimed water, which is exempt from restrictions. However, the County requests voluntary compliance. The prescribed restrictions include:

- Twice per week; Even addresses on Thursday and/or Sunday; Odd addresses on Wednesday and/or Saturday;
- Water before 10 AM or after 4 PM
- Hand-watering or micro-irrigation of plants can be done on any day and any time

How often should I water?

Babcock Ranch will periodically send e-mail communications to its residents about recommended watering schedules based on the time of year, rainfall and growing patterns. Currently, our landscaping company recommends the following:

Service Area – Trail's Edge

- Lennar homes are mixed plants and turf on one zone.
 - 4 times per week
 - Sprays: 10 minutes
 - Rotors: 10 to 12 minutes
 - Monitor for over- or under-watering in a few weeks; adjust accordingly (+/- 2 – 3 minutes)

Service Area – Parkside

- Pulte homes are separate – plants & turf
 - 4 times per week
 - Plants are drip zones: 10 minutes
 - Turf Sprays & Rotors: 10 - 12 minutes
 - Monitor for over- or under-watering in a few weeks; adjust accordingly (+/- 2 – 3 minutes)

All other Areas

- Check with your builder or landscaper to determine the number of zones and type of head that is in the zone (drip, spray, rotor, or bubbler)
 - 4 times per week
 - Plants: 10 minutes
 - Turf: 10 to 12 minutes
 - Monitor for over- or under-watering in a few weeks; adjust accordingly (+/- 2 – 3 minutes)

How do I know if my plants are getting enough water?

- After an irrigation cycle, come out about 6 to 8 inches from the base of a plant and dig down a shovel-depth into the soil. Place your hand into the hole. Is the soil moist or dry to the bone? Increase or decrease your times accordingly.
- Thirsty plants may display leaf wilt or curling; overall grayish leaf color; tips of leaves brown and dry.
- For lawns: grass blades fold up lengthwise; the grass has a gray tinge and/or footprints stay visible a long time.

We will be updating the suggested irrigation times as the seasons change. Be sure to register on the HOA website to receive e-blasts. Visit www.BabcockRanchLiving.com and select "Request a Login."