



Town of Chatham

Department of Public Works

221 Crowell Road

Chatham, Massachusetts 02633

Tel: 508-945-5155 Highway Dept.

Tel: 508-945-5150 Water & Sewer Division

Fax: 508-945-5152

To: All Water Customers

Re: New Regulation for Irrigation Systems Connected to Public Water Supply

Dear Water Customers:

Attached is a copy of the regulations governing irrigation systems connected to the Town's public water supply, along with an application for registering an irrigation system. These regulations do not apply to irrigation systems which are solely connected to a private well with NO physical interconnection to the Town's water supply.

The primary goal of registering irrigation systems is to protect the public water supply system from the potential of contamination due to a backflow condition. Contamination can occur when the pressure in the water main at the street is lower than the pressure in your house thus, causing back-siphonage. This can occur during hydrant flushing, firefighting, or a water main break. This reversal of the direction of flow can pull the stagnant water sitting around your irrigation heads back into your household plumbing and ultimately into the public drinking water supply. This water typically contains pesticides, fertilizers, herbicides, or organic waste. The backflow prevention device that is required on all irrigation systems prevents this reversal of flow from occurring by either the check valve in the device closing or the air inlet opening to break the vacuum. Under NO circumstances should there be a physical interconnection between a private well and the Town's water supply.

Annual inspections for possible contamination sources and testing of backflow prevention devices are required for each irrigation system. An inspection fee of \$75.00 will be charged for each inspection.

The secondary goal of these regulations is to ensure that irrigation systems comply with any water use restriction required under the rules of the Water Division's Drought Management Plan.

Any person who plans to connect an irrigation system to the public water supply system shall obtain a permit from the Chatham Water Division prior to the actual installation. ***The Town shall not be held responsible for any private irrigation components within the public right of way layout.*** There is a \$50.00 permit fee for a new irrigation installation and for registering an existing system.

Thank you for helping us protect your drinking water supply.

**TOWN OF CHATHAM
LEGAL NOTICE**

Notice is hereby given that the Town of Chatham's Board of Selectmen, as the Water Commissioners, at the April 25, 2017, Public Hearing, adopted the following amendment to the Rules and Regulations of the Water Department Article VI, Irrigation Systems Connected to the Public Water Supply.

**Article VI
IRRIGATION SYSTEMS CONNECTED TO THE PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY**

To connect irrigating systems to the public water supply the following rules apply:

1. Definition: Irrigation System – A system of sprinkler heads attached to underground pipes.
2. All irrigation systems shall be installed with an approved backflow prevention device.
 - a. Said device shall be inspected initially upon its installation and before the irrigation system is activated.
 - b. Said device shall be tested annually thereafter by employees of the Water Department or its designee in accordance with Article V, Cross Connections.
 - c. A testing fee of \$75.00 shall be charged for each testing.
3. No cross connection between a domestic water system connected to the municipal water supply and an irrigation system connected to a private well is allowed.
4. All irrigation systems connected to the municipal water supply shall be equipped with a timing device that can be set to make the system conform to local watering restrictions.
5. All irrigation systems shall be equipped with a rain and/or soil moisture sensing device that will prevent the system from starting automatically during periods of rain or high soil moisture.
6. Irrigation systems shall conform to the following:
 - a. Rain sensors shall be set at ½" or less of rain.
 - b. Control systems shall be set to only allow watering between Midnight and 6AM.
 - c. Irrigation heads shall be located to avoid watering impervious surfaces including, but not limited to, sidewalks, roadways, driveways, patios, etc.
7. Any property owner who has an existing irrigation system connected to the municipal water supply shall register said system and obtain a permit from the Chatham Water Department no later than January 1, 2018.
8. Any property owner who has the intention to install a new irrigation system connected to the municipal water supply shall register the system and obtain a permit from the Chatham Water Department prior to the actual installation.
9. All irrigation systems connected to the municipal water supply, those currently in existence as well as any installed in the future, shall comply with all Rules and Regulations of the Water Department.
10. Turf irrigation systems:
 - a. Control systems shall be set to provide no more than 1" of water in a seven (7) day period.
 - b. Property owners with existing turf irrigation systems as of January 1, 2018 shall not add a zone to the irrigation system without prior approval of the Water & Sewer Advisory Committee.

- c. As of April 1, 2018 the Chatham Water Department shall not allow the connection of new turf irrigation systems to the municipal water supply if a suitable private well is available.
11. Property owners with an existing irrigation system connected to the municipal water system that have a private well suitable for irrigation use shall connect the irrigation system to the private well.
 12. Land in agricultural use, as defined by M.G.L. c. 128 s 1A. and M.G.L. c 131.S 40 is exempt from this regulation.
 13. Violations of this regulation will be subject to the provisions of the Regulation of the Town of Chatham regarding non-criminal disposition, according to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 40, § 21D and the Town of Chatham Bylaws.
 - a. Enforcement of this regulation shall be by the Chatham DPW or its designee, including the Chatham Police Department.
 - b. Penalties
 - i. Prior to January 1, 2020
 1. In the case of a first violation, a written Warning to the property owner of record by certified mail return receipt requested.
 2. In the case of a second violation after 7 days have elapsed following a written Warning, a fine of One Hundred dollars (\$100).
 3. In the case of a third or more violation(s) after 7 days have elapsed following a 2nd Violation, a fine of Two Hundred dollars (\$200). Each day's failure to comply shall constitute a separate violation.
 - ii. On or After January 1, 2020
 1. In the case of a first violation, a written Warning to the property owner of record by certified mail return receipt requested.
 2. In the case of a second violation after 7 days have elapsed following a written Warning, a fine of One Hundred dollars (\$100).
 3. In the case of a third violation after 7 days have elapsed following a 2nd Violation, a fine of Two Hundred dollars (\$200).
 4. In the case of a fourth or more violation(s) after 7 days have elapsed following a third violation, shall result in disconnection of the irrigation system water meter.

Town of Chatham
Board of Selectmen

TOWN OF CHATHAM WATER DEPARTMENT

Application for registration of irrigation systems connected to the Public Water System.

1. Location of irrigation system connected to the Public Water System.

Name: _____

Amount Paid: _____

Street: _____

Check No: _____

Water Account Number: _____

Date: _____

2. Attach drawing of the irrigation system's layout showing building(s), septage system, driveway(s), road(s), and the connection to the Public Water System, and location of the backflow prevention device and rain sensor.

3. Is the system installed with a testable back-flow prevention device? Yes No

Attach a drawing and specification of the existing back-flow prevention device.

A testable back-flow prevention device is required on all systems.

If a back-flow prevention device is not currently installed on your system the Water Department will perform a survey and establish the type of device required.

4. Is the Irrigation System equipped with pesticides, fertilizer, and/or herbicide dispensing device(s)? Yes No

5. Is the system equipped with a timing device? Yes No

6. Is the system equipped with a rain sensor? Yes No

PRIVATE WELLS SHALL NOT BE CONNECTED TO ANY IRRIGATIONS SYSTEMS THAT ARE OR WILL BE CONNECTED TO THE PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY.

As stated in the "Town of Chatham, Rules and Regulations of the Water Department," the undersigned agrees to provide access to all authorized agents of the Water Department at reasonable hours for inspection of the irrigation system and testing of the backflow prevention device.

The registration fee for new and existing irrigation systems is \$50.00.

Signed: _____
Owner

Back-flow Prevention Device Approved
Date: _____

Mailing Address: _____

By: _____
Back-flow Prevention Surveyor

Date Permit Granted: _____

Telephone No: _____

By: _____
Director

Notes: _____