

Backflow prevention

It's important that no matter how you water – by hose, sprinkler or irrigation system – that the water you use doesn't re-enter your pipes. The result could be contamination of your water and potentially our supply.

Garden hoses and irrigation systems are common ways for this to happen. Backflow preventers on your outside faucet or irrigation system keep used water from being siphoned back into your home's plumbing and the public water supply.

CFPUA requires that in-ground irrigation systems are isolated from the public water supply with the correct type of backflow prevention. The prevention must be checked annually by a certified tester.

You can find out more information at www.cfpua.org by searching for the words "backflow prevention". Our Community Compliance staff can also assist you. Please phone (910) 332-6558 or by emailing community.compliance@cfpua.org.

Our mission:

To provide high-quality service in an environmentally responsible manner while maintaining the lowest practicable cost.



Payment Center & Administrative Offices:
235 Government Center Drive
Wilmington, NC 28403
Customer Service: (910) 332-6550
Water/Sewer Emergencies: (910) 332-6565
Payment Center:
305 Chestnut Street, Wilmington, NC 28401



Learn From Your Lawn

How to Water Wisely
and Keep Your Grass Green

Thanks to Wilmington's great weather, we get to enjoy our green, lush lawns longer than most. That extra time, however, also gives us more of an opportunity to make mistakes that can hurt our turf.

That's why Cape Fear Public Utility Authority (CFPUA) wants to help you become wise about your use of water, a resource we shouldn't waste.

#1: Let's state the obvious first.

Don't water too much. Don't water too little.

How can you tell when to water your lawn? Try this test. Walk on your lawn. If you can see your footprints, it needs water. If it bounces back, skip the soaking.

How much water at a time? 1" for clay soils and ½" for sandy soils. How can you tell when you're done? Put out an old can. When the water reaches your measure, you're done. All you need to remember is how long it took to hit the mark.

#2: Water the grass. Just the grass.

Water your grass and not your driveway. After your grass is cut, check your watering tools. Make sure they can flow freely and are heading where you want and you'll never water concrete again. Unless you want to...

#3: And keep it on the grass. Just the grass.

Runoff is a waste of water – and money. Divide up your total watering time into two equal periods with an hour in between and you can make sure your water stays on your lawn and doesn't run into the street.

#4: Water your lawn, not the sky.

Water your lawn in the heat of the day and you might as well water the sky. It will evaporate before it gets into the soil. Water before the sun comes up and winds hit their peak.

#5: Don't mow so low.

Cutting your grass down too low can put it in jeopardy. Taller blades of grass shade their roots, making them stronger while the soil stays moist for a longer period of time.

