



Goal: Implement all feasible measures to eliminate surface runoff of irrigation water.

Contact your local hardware or gardening stores and water districts for available tools and materials to prevent irrigation runoff, including new sprinkler heads, sprinkler nozzles, irrigation controller batteries, etc.



City of Rancho Santa Margarita
Department of Public Works
Phone: 949.635.1800 ext. 6501
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STORMWATER PROGRAM

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES FOR ELIMINATING IRRIGATION RUNOFF



City of Rancho Santa Margarita
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Best Management Practices for Eliminating Irrigation Runoff

This brochure provides information on the selection and implementation of proper best management practices (BMPs) for effective irrigation systems to prevent irrigation runoff.

Why should we be concerned with irrigation runoff?

Irrigation runoff can be a significant contributor to ocean pollution. Over-watering results in urban runoff that finds its way through the streets, gutters, and storm drains before entering the ocean. The implementation of BMPs is required for water quality compliance with State and local regulations which were developed to prevent water pollution and protect public health.

The City of Rancho Santa Margarita's Water Quality Control program (Municipal Code 5.10) requires home and business owners to prevent discharge into the storm drain systems.

Best Management Practices (BMPs)

The following recommended BMP's will help Home and Business owners comply with the City's water quality and water pollution prevention requirements:

- Minimize water use. Conserve water by using irrigation practices such as drip irrigation, soaker hoses, micro-spray systems or weather based controllers.
- Inspect the irrigation system regularly, while it is operating, and promptly repair leaks or breaks.
- Adjust sprinkler heads and nozzles to avoid over-spray onto pavement and/or other impervious areas.
- Ensure that persons responsible for landscape maintenance are aware of irrigation management techniques and regulations for pollution prevention.
- Irrigate slowly or pulse irrigate to allow infiltration through the soil.
- Adjust watering schedule seasonally to reflect reduced winter water demand.

Irrigation runoff management includes having a goal of zero discharge or a closed-loop recycled water system.

Please consider the following:

- Upgrading irrigation system components to increase efficiency and reduce the potential for irrigation runoff.
- Reducing the need for irrigation by planting drought resistant species.



If you would like further information about water quality pollution prevention, please contact the Public Works Department at (949) 635-1800 or visit our website at www.cityofrsm.org.

Thank you for your effort in helping to improve the quality of our environment.