



Use Your Water Right, 137 Bluebird Lane Clearwater, MN 55320  
[www.useyourwaterright.com](http://www.useyourwaterright.com) [info@useyourwaterright.com](mailto:info@useyourwaterright.com)

Happy Independence Day

## Water saving upgrades for around \$200.00

With water prices rising at the city level, you want to be sure that the improvements you make with your irrigation system give you the biggest bang for your buck. Check out some of these upgrades that can be installed immediately and give you instant results.

### Rain Sensor.

For around \$150.00 a rain sensor can be installed on your automatic timer. This sensor will shut down your irrigation system during a rain event and typically keep it off for 24 hours. Systems that operate during the rain are wasting countless gallons of water and costing you money that you could be saving.

### Low head drainage.

When your system turns off the irrigation heads which are at the bottom of a hill will drain the lateral lines. Most lateral lines are 1", when these lines drain out each time you are losing valuable water which is not going on your lawn and is probably going down a drain. Some irrigation heads can be retrofitted with a rubber gasket which will act as a check valve when the irrigation shuts off. A check valve can also be installed at the base of the irrigation head. New irrigation heads with a check valve can be purchased for a little as \$20-\$30 each.

### Master Valve.

As your system ages, micro leaks can begin to occur in the mainline which are unnoticeable because they are happening underground. These leaks are much like your dripping faucet and losing up to 2 gallons per hour per leak which would be undetectable. A master valve can be installed right after your Pressure Vacuum Breaker and be connected with your controller. This master valve only comes on when the irrigation system is calling for water. This will keep unneeded pressure off of the pipes during down times and eliminate these Micro Leaks. For around \$200.00 this will save you from breaks and leaks which could rob you of hundreds of dollars.

### Rotors not turning and sprays not spraying.

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Water saving upgrades for around \$200.00

Page 1

Rotors have a natural life expectancy. You can expect for every 10 rotors you will have 1 stop rotating each year. You should check them all for operation once a month or have an irrigation professional do it for you. Spray heads also need to be checked, especially ones that are close to any pavement. These sprays will tend to get plugged up periodically. You will need to use tool to clean out the nozzle opening like a knife or a small flathead screwdriver.

### Irrigation Audit.

An audit on your system will give you a program to follow throughout the year to optimize your water use. The audit will also expose areas which are neglected. This can help you save money on your water bills paying for itself in about 1 season.

### Update your controller.

Those of you who may still have a mechanical dial type controller, now is the time to update your controller to digital. Digital controllers will give you multiple programming options and give you more control over seasonal programming. Quality controller prices start at around \$150 and can be optimized with sensors that can control the amount of water being applied.

### Updating nozzles,

Today there are rotary nozzles which can take the place of the traditional sprays. Pending on the type of spray heads you have, these nozzles can retrofit into the existing body of the sprinkler. Rotary Nozzles use 1/3 of the water used by sprays allowing the water to penetrate the soil slowly, reducing potential runoff. These nozzles start at about \$10-\$15 each.

Doing any of these improvements will not only save you money on your water bills, but will also provide better coverage on lawn and plants. For more info call 320-310-4241.

To view past articles, go to [www.useyourwaterright.com](http://www.useyourwaterright.com).  
To subscribe to Water Chronicles, email us at [info@useyourwaterright.com](mailto:info@useyourwaterright.com).

Help us out! We would love to see your articles about everything that has to do with the outdoors, landscaping, Gardening, Lawn Care, Flowers, you name it. Write about it and send it to [chrisv@useyourwaterright.com](mailto:chrisv@useyourwaterright.com). If your article is published, you will receive a \$20 gift card to a restaurant of your choice.

Happy Writing  
From the staff at UseYourWaterRight.com

