



Commercial Irrigation Evaluations & Certified Efficient Car Washes Frequently Asked Questions

Commercial Property Irrigation Evaluations

What is an Irrigation Evaluation?

Effective January 1, 2013, commercial properties greater than 1.0 acre in size are required to have an irrigation evaluation. Irrigation systems will be routinely checked for compliance with City Code Chapter 6-4, which means no runoff, misaligned or broken heads, ponding, leaks, or misting is allowed. Pressure readings are required, as well as flow rates for each irrigation station, and permit history. Evaluation results must be submitted to Austin Water for review.

When are the irrigation evaluations due?

Evaluations of permanently installed irrigation systems will be conducted on a schedule that will be determined by rule. Once established, the schedule will be posted on the Austin Water website at www.WaterWiseAustin.org.

Is the City going to conduct the irrigation evaluation?

No, properties will be responsible for hiring an Austin Water Authorized Irrigation Inspector.

What is an Austin Water Authorized Irrigation Inspector?

An Austin Water Authorized Irrigation Inspector is an independent contractor who is licensed by the state of Texas through the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) and has completed the additional coursework from Austin Water necessary to attain this status. Austin Water is currently developing the coursework. Once available, class information will be posted on the Austin Water website, www.WaterWiseAustin.org. A list of Austin Water Authorized Irrigation Inspectors will be made available there as well.

How do I know if my irrigation system was permitted?

Starting January 1, 2008, the City of Austin began requiring permits for the installation of irrigation systems. If your irrigation system was installed prior to January 1, 2008, no permit was required. To determine if a permit was filed, you may contact the City of Austin Planning and Development Review Department at (512) 974-7668 or look it up on their website at www.austintexas.gov/page/building-permits.

Certified Efficient Car Wash Facilities

What is a certified efficient car wash facility?

Effective January 1, 2013, all vehicle wash facilities using Austin Water's potable water will be required to have a licensed plumber perform an annual inspection to certify the equipment meets certain efficiency standards. Car washing facilities will be required to post a notice that their equipment has been certified efficient and that certification has been accepted by the City.

Do all facilities that wash vehicles have to have their equipment certified efficient?

Yes, any permanently-located business that washes vehicles or other mobile equipment with water or water-based products, including but not limited to self-service car washes, full service car washes, roll-

over/in-bay style car washes, and facilities managing vehicle fleets or vehicle inventory must have their equipment certified as efficient after January 1, 2013.

Do the car wash facility efficiency certifications apply to car dealerships, rentals, and fleet service washing facilities?

Yes, any permanently-located business that washes vehicles or other mobile equipment with water or water-based products, including but not limited to self-service car washes, full service car washes, roll-over/in-bay style car washes, and facilities managing vehicle fleets or vehicle inventory must have their equipment certified as efficient after January 1, 2013.

How often is the efficiency certification required?

Evaluations will be conducted on a schedule that will be determined by rule. Once established, the schedule will be posted on the Austin Water website at www.WaterWiseAustin.org.

Can I perform the efficiency evaluation on the equipment in my car wash myself?

No, the efficiency evaluation must be performed by the licensed plumber of your choice.