

THE WOODLANDS MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICTS

POLICY MANUAL

POLICY NUMBER: PLU-40

SUBJECT: INSTALLATION OF NEW IRRIGATION SYSTEMS

EFFECTIVE DATE: JANUARY 1, 2013

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SECTION 1: Permit

- (a) From and after the effective date hereof, it shall be unlawful for any person to install a new irrigation system supplied directly or indirectly by the public water supply system without first obtaining an irrigation permit through The Woodlands Municipal Utility Districts. This section shall not apply to:
- (1) On-site sewage treatment facilities with sprinkler discharges that are governed by other applicable laws;
 - (2) Irrigation systems that are supplied solely by a private water well that is not connected to the public water supply system and not used for domestic use;
 - (3) Irrigation systems in the process of installation on the effective date hereof, so long as the system's backflow device has been installed prior to such date;
 - (4) Extensions or additions to an existing irrigation system, regardless of the date of original installation; and
 - (5) Routine repairs and maintenance of an existing irrigation system to an existing irrigation system, regardless of the date of original installation, so long as the existing irrigation system is not being completely replaced (including all piping, controller(s), valves, etc.).
- (b) From and after the effective date hereof, each person desiring to conduct business as a licensed irrigator must be registered with The Woodlands Municipal Utility Districts. All of the following information must be submitted to register as a licensed irrigator:
- (1) A valid photo identification card;
 - (2) State of Texas Irrigator's License; and
 - (3) General liability insurance policy in the minimum amount of \$300,000.

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(c) An irrigation permit may be secured by either a licensed irrigator registered in accordance with paragraph (b) above or a person who owns or occupies the property where the irrigation system is to be installed. A person desiring an irrigation permit must submit the following information to the District for approval, along with the permit fee set forth in Fee Schedule A:

(1) A completed irrigation permit application;

(2) Two copies of the proposed irrigation plans, which must be prepared by a licensed irrigator registered in accordance with paragraph (b) above, drawn to scale and including: (i) the licensed irrigator's seal, signature, and date of the signing; (ii) major physical features and boundaries of the areas to be irrigated; (iii) a North arrow; (iv) a legend; (v) zone flow measurements for each zone; (vi) location and type of controllers and sensors; (vii) location, type, and size of water sources, backflow prevention device, water emission device, valve, pressure regulation component, and main line and lateral piping; (viii) scale used; and (ix) design pressure; and

(3) A copy of the existing or new signed water service application.

(d) A copy of the irrigation permit must be posted on the job site in a conspicuous location at all times during the installation of the irrigation system. The design plans must be on site at all times in accordance with state rules.

SECTION 2: Installation; Materials; Methods; Design Requirements.

(a) An irrigation system permitted in accordance with SECTION 1 may be installed by (i) a licensed irrigator, (ii) a person under the direct supervision of a licensed irrigator, (iii) a person who owns or occupies the property where the irrigation system is to be installed, or (iv) a person under the direct supervision of the property owner or occupant.

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(b) The following materials are hereby approved for the installation of a new irrigation system:

- (1) Sch. 40 Class PVC pipe or better must be used from the point of connection to the public water supply system, up to the backflow device; and
- (2) SDR 21 Class PVC pipe or better may be used for other main lines and laterals.

(c) The following methods are hereby approved and shall be used when installing a new irrigation system:

- (1) All PVC joints shall be the cement solvent type with colored primer. Pipe cleaner, and/or clear primer will not be accepted.
- (2) All exposed piping must be insulated, secured, and protected from ultra-violet light deterioration.
- (3) Irrigation components shall not be used in excess of the manufacture's published performance limitations. Minimum and maximum pressures on all sprinkler heads must be within the standards recommended by the manufacturer's publication.
- (4) Irrigation systems shall not use above-ground spray emission devices in landscapes that are bordered on two or more sides and are less than 48 inches in length or width (not including impervious surfaces). Narrow paved walkways, jogging paths, and similar areas located in cemeteries, parks, golf courses, or other public areas may be exempted if the runoff drains into a landscaped area.
- (5) All sprinkler heads must direct flow away from a hardscape and shall not be installed closer than four (4) inches from a hardscape.
- (6) Irrigation zones shall be based on plant material type, microclimate factors, topographic features, soil conditions, and hydrological requirements.

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- (7) All sprinkler heads shall be arranged such that they do not spray water on or over any impervious material.
- (8) All irrigation systems shall be designed, installed, maintained, altered, repaired, serviced, and operated in a manner that promotes water conservation.
- (9) All piping from the point of connection to the public water supply system to the backflow device must be buried a minimum of twelve (12) inches. All other main lines and laterals shall be buried a minimum of six (6) inches in depth.
- (10) All irrigation systems shall be equipped with a rain or moisture shut-off device or other water-saving technology. Such devices or technology shall be designed and installed to inhibit or interrupt operation of the irrigation system during periods of high soil moisture or rainfall.

SECTION 3: Reclaimed Water.

- (a) Reclaimed water may be used in irrigation systems if:
 - (1) There is no direct contact with edible crops, unless the crop is pasteurized before consumption;
 - (2) The irrigation system does not spray water across property lines that do not belong to the irrigation system's owner;
 - (3) The irrigation system is installed using purple piping and components;
 - (4) The irrigation system is not connected directly or indirectly to the public water supply system; and
 - (5) A minimum of an eight-inch by eight-inch sign, in English and in Spanish, is prominently posted on/in the area that is being irrigated, that reads: "RECLAIMED WATER – DO NOT DRINK" and "AGUA DE RECUPERACION – NO BEBER".

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SECTION 4: Backflow Device Required.

- (a) All irrigation systems shall have a backflow device installed that protects the public water supply system from cross contamination.
- (b) The backflow device must be a Pressure Vacuum Breaker (PVB), Reduced Pressure Zone (RPZ), or Double Check Valve (DC) backflow device. For systems where chemicals are induced, or a health hazard exists, an RPZ is the only device allowed.
- (c) A PVB must be installed such that the elevation of the bottom of the device is at least one foot above the highest sprinkler head. An RPZ and DC must be installed a minimum of twelve inches above grade in a manner where the device cannot be submerged.
- (d) The backflow device must be tested by a licensed certified tester upon installation prior to the system being placed in service.
- (e) The backflow device must be secured and protected in accordance with SECTION 2, (c), (2).

SECTION 5: Inspections

- (a) A person shall not operate an irrigation system permitted in accordance with SECTION 1 until it has been inspected and approved by the District's Licensed Irrigation or Plumbing Inspector or his designee.
- (b) Inspections must be requested at least twenty-four (24) hours in advance.
- (c) A copy of the backflow device test report must be attached to the backflow device and available at the time of the inspection.
- (d) The piping from the point of connection to the public water supply system to the backflow device shall be inspected and approved prior to covering the piping system. At the option of the District's Licensed Irrigation or Plumbing Inspector, the irrigation

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installer may be required to expose 1 or more locations within the system for spot checks to verify compliance.

SECTION 6: Penalties

- (a) Any person violating the permitting or installation provisions of this Policy within The Woodlands Municipal Utility Districts (except Montgomery County Municipal Utility District No. 39) may be subject to a civil penalty not to exceed \$250.00. Any person violating the permitting or installation provisions of this Policy within Montgomery County Municipal Utility District No. 39 may be subject to a civil penalty not to exceed \$50.00.
- (b) Each day of violation shall constitute a separate offense.
- (c) Any person violating this Policy shall receive written notification of such violation, which notice shall set forth (i) the date of the violation, (ii) the nature of the violation, (iii) the amount of the penalty for the violation, (iv) notice of the penalty amount(s) for any further violations, and (v) the process for appealing the penalty. The penalty will be added to the person's next water bill that is issued at least fifteen days after the issuance of the notice, unless the person appeals within ten days of the date of the notice.
- (d) The Board of Directors shall hear and determine any penalty appeals. The Board of Director's determination shall be final and penalties imposed under this Policy shall be due and payable as part of the person's regular water bill.