

Correcting Overspray

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality rules governing irrigation in Texas do not allow spraying water over impervious surfaces such as walls, fences, sidewalks, and streets. The reason for this rule is simple; spraying water on these surfaces is a waste. It will cost more to install a system that does not spray onto these surfaces, but that is the cost of having an efficient irrigation system that conserves our most precious natural resource.

Assume you have a typical residential lot of approximately 80-foot by 120-foot with a 4-foot wide sidewalk running from the street to your front door. There is also a 4-foot wide sidewalk running parallel to the street. If your sprinkler system throws water over the sidewalks during operation, applying one inch of water to your landscape will waste around 220 gallons of water on your sidewalks. This water will run down the concrete and into the gutter, or it will runoff into the soil where it will over water the area and deep percolate below the plant root zone where it is no longer useful. Either way, it is a waste of water. If you only replace the amount of water required by the plant material to survive and do not overwater, during a one year period you will waste approximately 7,247 gallons of water. This does not include the wasted water throwing onto your house, fences, driveway, or out into the street. If your irrigation system is spraying water onto impervious surfaces, request an irrigation system evaluation from a W.I.S.E. Guys Licensed Irrigator today for ideas on how to stop this unnecessary waste.