



Waterfacts 1

Choosing an irrigation professional.

If you decide to hire a contractor to design and/or install your system, follow these tips, from the Irrigation Industry Association of BC, to help you choose a contractor that best suits your needs.



Do your part. 
Every drop counts!

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- Check for valid business licensing with your municipality.
- Ask for proof of liability insurance. Check that your contractor is in good standing with Work Safe BC by going to the Work Safe BC web site at: www.worksafebc.com.
- Ask for and check local references.
- Be sure the contractor addresses any of your concerns, such as the best system for water efficiency.
- Make certain each contractor inspects your property prior to submitting a bid.
- Ask for and enforce a time frame for start and completion of the system installation.
- Beware of low bidders – often shortcuts are taken to achieve this, which can mean costly adjustments and/or repairs later.
- Be sure your contractor has obtained and purchased plumbing and electrical permits for the work to be carried out.
- Be sure your contractor has included the installation and initial testing of a back-flow prevention device.
- Ask for a written warranty (typically one year parts and labour).
- Ask to see a sketch of the proposed system to ensure only the landscaped areas are being watered.
- If you receive conflicting answers to questions about products or application, check with a supply company that does not do installations; often they can explain why things are done in a certain manner and what kinds of costs are involved for downgrades or upgrades.
- Check to see if the contractor is a member of IIABC (Irrigation Industry Association of British Columbia) and/or has certification through that organization.
- Irrigation professionals are busiest in the spring and summer. The “off” season is an excellent time to hire one.



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The content of this fact sheet was reviewed for accuracy by an irrigation professional and a landscape designer.

 50% post-consumer waste

Working with your contractor

Once you have hired an irrigation contractor follow these tips, to help you ensure a successful working relationship.

- If you are planning an installation on a new property, have the contractor visit your property BEFORE any pavement or plants are installed, if possible. Some initial work is much easier and faster at this stage.
- If the garden has not been planted or is to be changed, provide the contractor with a landscape plan or else a surveyor's site plan, if possible.
- Place stakes where trees and shrubs will go, enabling the contractor to visualize the proper layout of the system. Contractors are not necessarily knowledgeable about plants or their eventual sizes.
- Be on site occasionally during installation. You will then be available to answer the contractor's questions and observe the work in progress.
- Ensure any plants dug up during installation are replanted to the correct depth. Neither the root balls, nor the trunks or crowns should be exposed or even partially buried.

