



IRRIGATOR LICENSE EXEMPTIONS

When is a license not required?

Even though you may be exempt from licensing, you must comply with the standards established by [Title 30 TAC Chapter 344](#). Irrigation system does not include a system used on or by an agricultural operation as defined in Section 251.002, Agricultural Code.

The licensure requirements do not apply to:

- a person who is licensed by the Texas State Board of Plumbing Examiners and is working within the scope provided by the plumbing laws;
- a person who is registered or licensed as a professional engineer or architect or landscape architect if the work is related to the pursuit of the profession;
- a person who is under the direct supervision of a licensed irrigator and assists in the installation, maintenance, alteration, repair, or service of an irrigation system; or
- a person who is an owner of a business that employs a licensed irrigator to supervise the business' sale, design, consultation, installation, maintenance, alteration, repair, and service of irrigation systems. For the purpose of this subchapter, employs means steadily, uniformly, or habitually working in an employer-employee relationship with the intent to earn a livelihood, as opposed to working casually or occasionally.
- irrigation or yard sprinkler work that is performed by a property owner in a building or on premises owned or occupied by the owner as the owner's home;
- irrigation or yard sprinkler work other than extension of an existing irrigation or yard sprinkler system of a replacement system that is:
 - performed by a maintenance person who does not act as an irrigator or engage in yard sprinkler construction or maintenance for the public and
 - incidental to and on premises owned by the business in which the person is regularly employed or engaged;
 - irrigation or yard sprinkler work that is performed:
 - (A) by a regular employee of a railroad who does not act as an irrigator or engage in yard sprinkler construction or maintenance for the public;
 - and
 - (B) on the premises or equipment of the railroad;
- irrigation and yard sprinkler work that is performed on public property by a person who is regularly employed by a county, city, town, special district, or political subdivision of the state;
- irrigation or yard sprinkler work that is performed by a person using a garden hose, hose sprinkler, hose-end product, including soaker hose, or agricultural irrigation system;
- an activity that includes a commercial agricultural irrigation system;
- irrigation or yard sprinkler work that is performed by an agriculturist, agronomist, horticulturist, forester, gardener, contract gardener, garden or lawn caretaker, nurseryman, or grader or cultivator of land on land owned by the individual performing the work;
- irrigation or yard sprinkler work that is performed by a member of a property owners' association as defined by Property Code, §202.001, on real property owned by the association or in common by the members of the association if the irrigation or yard sprinkler system water real property that is less than ½ acre in size and is used for aesthetic or recreational purposes.

Texas Administrative Code

TITLE 30

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

PART 1

TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

CHAPTER 344

LANDSCAPE IRRIGATION

SUBCHAPTER F

STANDARDS FOR DESIGNING, INSTALLING, AND MAINTAINING
LANDSCAPE IRRIGATION SYSTEMS

RULE §344.61

Minimum Standards for the Design of the Irrigation Plan

(a) An irrigator shall prepare an irrigation plan for each site where a new irrigation system will be installed. A paper or electronic copy of the irrigation plan must be on the job site at all times during the installation of the irrigation system. A drawing showing the actual installation of the system is due to each irrigation system owner after all new irrigation system installations. During the installation of the irrigation system, variances from the original plan may be authorized by the licensed irrigator if the variance from the plan does not:

- (1) diminish the operational integrity of the irrigation system;
- (2) violate any requirements of this chapter; and
- (3) go unnoted in red on the irrigation plan.

(b) The irrigation plan must include complete coverage of the area to be irrigated. If a system does not provide complete coverage of the area to be irrigated, it must be noted on the irrigation plan.

(c) All irrigation plans used for construction must be drawn to scale. The plan must include, at a minimum, the following information:

- (1) the irrigator's seal, signature, and date of signing;
- (2) all major physical features and the boundaries of the areas to be watered;
- (3) a North arrow;
- (4) a legend;
- (5) the zone flow measurement for each zone;
- (6) location and type of each:
 - A. controller;
 - B. sensor (for example, but not limited to, rain, moisture, wind, flow, or freeze);
- (7) location, type, and size of each:
 - A. water source, such as, but not limited to a water meter and point(s) of connection;
 - B. backflow prevention device;
 - C. water emission device, including, but not limited to, spray heads, rotary sprinkler heads, quick-couplers, bubblers, drip, or micro-sprays;
 - D. valve, including, but not limited to, zone valves, master valves, and isolation valves;
 - E. pressure regulation component; and
 - F. main line and lateral piping.
- (8) the scale used; and
- (9) the design pressure.