



# Water Efficient Landscaping Ordinance

## Applicability

Menlo Park's Water Efficient Landscaping Ordinance applies to all new and rehabilitated landscapes exceeding 2,500 square feet that are associated with projects requiring the following types of City review and approval:

1. Subdivision improvements
2. Grading and drainage improvements including all storm water treatment and detention measures
3. New construction subject to a building permit
4. All building additions or modifications that require grading and drainage plan approval
5. New water service

## How to Comply

**Step One:** Hire a certified/licensed professional to complete and submit required documentation and plans. Any one of the following professionals is authorized to complete and submit the required documentation:

- Certified irrigation designer
- Certified landscape irrigation auditor
- Licensed landscape architect
- Licensed landscape contractor
- Licensed professional engineer
- Other person authorized by the State of California to design a landscape or an irrigation system

**Step Two:** Decide which option to comply with - Water Budget Calculation or Turf Limitation

1. Water Budget Calculation Option: Using this method allows additional flexibility as long as the project does not exceed the allowable water budget (measured in gallons). If using this option, a certified/licensed professional must submit either the interactive water budget form or a water budget form. Calculations must demonstrate that the proposed landscape's water use stays within a maximum applied water allowance.

**OR**

2. Turf Area Limitation Option: Total turf area must be 25% or less of the landscape area or, if a residential project, is 500 square feet or less. Please note that in order to use the turf area limitation option, at least 80% of the plants in non-turf landscape areas are required to be native plants, low-water using plants, or no-water using plants.

**Step Three:** Before construction, submit a **non-refundable \$250 fee** with your Planning or Building Permit Application, whichever comes first, and submit the following documentation from your certified/licensed professional:

1. Application/Outdoor Water Use Efficiency Checklist (Downloadable from City's website)
2. *If applicable*, a Water Budget Calculation Form (Downloadable from City's website)
3. Landscape and Irrigation Design Plans (See next page for plan requirements)

**Step Four:** After construction, a certified/licensed professional submits a Certificate of Completion and Landscape Audit Report before final inspection for the building permit.

# Landscape and Irrigation Plan Requirements

The landscape and irrigation designs shall be prepared and signed by a certified or authorized professional defined in step one on previous page. For specific requirements, refer to the Landscape Application/Outdoor Water Use Efficiency Checklist that can be downloaded from the City's website.

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<b>Landscape Design Portion</b>	At minimum, the plans shall identify: <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Each hydrozone area and associated water requirement (Low, Moderate, High, or Mixed Water Use)</li><li>2. Special Landscaped Areas (e.g. edible gardens; areas with recycled water)</li><li>3. Type of mulch and application depth</li><li>4. Type and surface area of water features</li><li>5. Hardscapes (pervious and non-pervious)</li><li>6. State the following: "I have complied with the criteria of the Water Conservation in Landscaping Ordinance and applied them for the efficient use of water in the Landscape Design Plan."</li></ol>
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<b>Irrigation Design Portion</b>	At minimum, the plans shall identify: <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Location and size of separate water meters for landscape</li><li>2. Location, type and size of all components of the irrigation system, including controllers, main and lateral lines, valves, sprinkler heads, moisture sensing devices, rain switches, quick couplers, pressure regulators and backflow prevention devices</li><li>3. Static water pressure as the point of connection to the public water supply</li><li>4. Flow rate (gallons per minute), application rate (inches per hour) and design operating pressure (pressure per square inch) for each station</li><li>5. Irrigation schedule</li><li>6. State the following: "I have complied with the criteria of the Water Conservation in Landscaping Ordinance and applied them for the efficient use of water in the Irrigation Design Plan."</li></ol>
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