

Factsheet



Switching from Sprinklers to Waterwise Drip Irrigation

The installation of drip irrigation systems for your garden beds is a simple and cost-effective way of saving water and also creating healthier and happier plants.

Drip irrigation delivers water to garden beds at the surface or just below the surface through flexible plastic dripper lines. This means the plants receive the water near their roots, right where they need it.

How can drip irrigation help save water and the environment?

Perth households typically use more water on their gardens than in their home. Drip irrigation can save substantial volumes of garden water, as it avoids over-spraying and runoff as well as water loss to areas that don't need it.

Each litre of water you save also works to reduce carbon pollution as mains or bore water uses energy to reach your tap at the right pressure.

What to consider when installing drip irrigation

It is important to consider the types of plants you are watering and the spacing between them, as this will influence the type of drip line you need.

Before going to see your local reticulation specialist, measure the garden area and note down the plants you have (or will plant) beforehand. It is also essential you determine the type of soil you have – whether it is clay based, as in the Hills region of Perth or a more sandy soil like many of our coastal suburbs. The soil type you have will dictate how far apart each run of drip line should be installed and therefore how much drip line is necessary for your garden beds. If the spacing of the drip line is incorrect, then the system will not operate efficiently.

All of these details will assist them in providing you with the best advice on the type of drip line you will need.

You can either install the drip line yourself with the advice of your local specialist, or get someone to install it for you. The Gardening Australia website has some extra tips on what to consider if installing the system yourself. Visit: www.abc.net.au/gardening/stories/s3821145.htm