

# *The Florida Irrigation Society Works for You*

This publication is designed to help you make the best decision about an important purchase - your irrigation system.

One of the Florida Irrigation Society's most important goals is to educate you, the consumer, about what to expect from an irrigation contractor.

The Society achieves this goal by informing you of the basic standard practices in the irrigation industry. Understanding this industry will help you select an irrigation contractor and choose the appropriate options for your system.

A good rule of thumb would be to ask the contractor if they are in possession of a Florida Irrigation Contractor License. Owners are encouraged to verify with the municipality where they live the specific licensing requirements for their local municipality.



**Florida Irrigation  
Society**

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# Know Your Irrigation Contractor

VALUABLE INFORMATION  
FOR THE CONSUMER

A COMMUNITY SERVICE OF THE  
FLORIDA IRRIGATION SOCIETY

## Who We Are

The Florida Irrigation Society (FIS) is a non-profit organization whose principle objective is to promote sound irrigation practices.

FIS meets this objective through active use of its Bylaws, some of which are:

- Promoting the development, proper design, use and acceptance of irrigation equipment, facilities and systems.
- Promoting water and soil conservation through economic use of irrigation practices.
- Collecting and disseminating information regarding irrigation to members of the Society, allied industries, organizations, agencies and the public.
- Developing for the irrigation industry a code of ethics as well as design and installation standards and specifications for the various types of systems.
- Providing, within the Society, a mechanism to encourage compliance with the code of ethics and providing a society seal symbolic of high standards.

## Terms to Know

- **As-Installed Schematics** are maps of your irrigation system, to assist you in preventing inadvertent damage through mowing, digging and other home-improvement activities.
- **Backflow** happens when contaminated water is drawn back into the water source.
- **Backflow prevention** keeps contamination from entering drinking water.
- **Overspray** occurs when water being applied to a landscape area also results in water being applied to streets, driveways, sidewalks, the sides of buildings, etc.
- **Zones** are the areas controlled by each irrigation valve. The size and location of each zone is based on available water supply, type of sprinkler being used and type of vegetation being irrigated. Sprays and rotors should not be used in the same zone. Turf and plants should not be in the same zone.

## Consumer Checklist

To ensure that you are about to hire a reputable irrigation contractor capable of installing a quality system, the Society recommends asking the following questions:

1. Are you a registered business with the FL Dept. of State/Division of Corporations?
2. How long have you been in business?
3. Can you provide me with a business phone, email and address?
4. Do you have a state or local license? Ask to see the license.
5. Does your irrigation service vehicle have your company name and license number clearly visible?
6. Will you provide me with a copy of your certificate of liability and workers comp insurance?
7. Can you provide a list of references to contact about your work?
8. Do you offer a warranty on parts for the entire system, including warranty coverage of any dry spots that may appear?
9. How do you assure the design and installation are fully compliant with local code requirements and will you be obtaining a permit for the project?
10. Will a backflow prevention device be installed, if needed, by a licensed plumber?
11. Will you provide an "as-installed schematic" of the irrigation system for my records?
12. Upon completion of the install, will you provide instruction manuals for timers?
13. Will you demonstrate that each component of the irrigation system is fully operational before payment is made?