



MARTIN COUNTY ADVANCED IRRIGATION VARIANCE

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is an Advanced Irrigation or Smart Irrigation Variance?

It is a variance allowing a property owner who has installed an "advanced irrigation controller" as part of their irrigation system to water on days of the week other than those prescribed in the Ordinance. Once approved, the variance is good for five years and may be renewed in writing. To obtain this variance, the property owner (or owners) must submit an Application (Form A), an Advanced Irrigation or Smart Irrigation Variance certification by a licensed contractor (Form B), and a filing fee of \$300. Links to Forms A and B can be found at www.martin.fl.us/waterwisely. The certification (Form B) requires a notary's verification of the signature of the property owner (or owners.)

Why was the program adopted?

The Martin County Board of County Commissioners wished to provide an incentive for residents to install such water saving systems, since both the individual residents and the community as a whole will benefit from the water conservation benefits of such systems, and therefore, expediting the conversion process is in the community's best interests.

How do I receive an Advanced Irrigation Variance?

You may apply for a variance by completing a [Watering Schedule Variance Application](#) and submit it to Martin County Utilities Customer Service at 3473 SE Willoughby Blvd. Suite 102, Stuart, FL . A \$300 fee is required for processing the application. Advanced Irrigation Variance Application forms are available at Martin County Utilities Customer Service or at www.martin.fl.us/waterwisely.

A notary is needed to certify system operational compliance. The Advanced Irrigation Variance Certification form is required to be signed by the owner and state-licensed contractor and submitted to Martin County upon installation. This submittal must include record drawings and information of the installed system as required by Code.

What if I already have an advanced irrigation controller installed with my irrigation system?

If your system passed final inspection within the last 90 days, you should submit an Advanced Irrigation Variance Application and the required fee, but a certification form will not be required unless an inspection conducted by the Martin County Utilities & Solid Waste department finds that the system is not operating correctly. If so, the proper repairs must be completed and a certification form submitted for the variance to be approved.

What is the cost to apply?

The application fee is \$300. This covers the application processing costs, the cost of the sign issued to you. It also covers and all future renewals. The fee does not cover transfer costs.



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Am I required to post a sign?

Yes, a small sign must be posted in your yard.

When does the variance expire?

The variance is good for five years and must be renewed prior to expiration.

How will I know when to renew?

The Martin County Utilities & Solid Waste department will notify you when your variance is about to expire. The date is also printed on your variance. We will use the e-mail address provided on your application to notify you.

How do I renew?

Prior to the renewal expiration, you should submit a recertification form completed by an entity properly licensed to perform such work. There is no renewal fee involved. An inspection will be performed, and a renewal will be issued. The certification forms are available online or in our department.

What if I fail to renew?

If you don't renew, you are required to remove the sign and you may not water your lawn other than on the days of the week prescribed in the code. Failure to do both of these items will result in code enforcement action by the County.

What if I sell my property?

The variance does not transfer automatically. The new owner is required to fill out a new application and submit it to our department with a transfer fee of \$75. A certification form executed by an appropriately licensed entity indicating that the system is operating correctly will also be needed. Certification forms are available on our website or at our offices.

Where can I get additional information?

Go to the Martin County webpage www.martin.fl.us, visit Martin County Utilities Customer Service at 3473 SE Willoughby Blvd. Suite 102 in Stuart, or call our department at (772) 221-1442.