



Landscape Standards Checklist – Prescriptive

Recommended for Landscape Areas between 500 and 2,499 square feet (aggregate)

Project Address:	Project Number:
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In California, about half of the urban water used is for landscape irrigation. Substantial water savings can be gained by proper landscape design, installation and maintenance. California’s Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance (SmartScape) promotes efficient landscapes in new developments and retrofitted landscapes. The following checklist provides a list of items that must be included on the landscape plans to efficiently process your permit application.

Plant Material (CA Department of Water Resources (DWR) Title 23, Chapter 2.7, Appendix D (b) (3))

- For residential areas, 75% of landscape, excluding edibles and areas using recycled water, shall consist of plants that average a Water Use Classification of Landscape Species (WUCOLS) plant factor of 0.3. WUCOLS plants database can be found online at: <http://ucanr.edu/sites/WUCOLS/>
- For non-residential areas, 100% of the plants, excluding edibles and areas using recycled water, shall consist of plants that average a WUCOLS plant factor of 0.3.

Turf (DWR Title 23, Chapter 2.7, Appendix D Cb) (4))

- Turf shall not exceed 25% of the landscape area in residential areas.
- No turf permitted in non-residential areas.
- Turf not permitted on slopes greater than 25%.
- Turf is prohibited in parkways less than 10 feet wide.

Irrigation (DWR Title 23, Chapter 2.7, Appendix D Cb) (5))

- Automatic weather-based or soil-moisture based irrigation controllers shall be installed on the irrigation system.
- Pressure regulators shall be installed on the irrigation system to ensure dynamic pressure of the system is within the manufacturer's recommended pressure-range.
- Manual-shut-off valves shall be installed as close as possible to the point of connection of the water supply.
- Areas less than 10-feet in width in any direction shall be irrigated with subsurface irrigation or other means that produces no runoff or overspray.
- For non-residential projects with landscape areas of 1,000 sq. ft. or more, private sub-meter(s) to measure landscape water use shall be installed.

Plan Notes for Inclusion

- At the time of final inspection, the permit applicant must provide the owner of the property with a certificate of completion, certificate of installation, irrigation schedule of landscape and irrigation maintenance.
- Unless contradicted by a soils test, compost at a rate of a minimum of four cubic yards per 1,000 square feet of permeable area shall be incorporated to a depth of six inches into the soil.
- A minimum 3-inch layer of mulch shall be applied on all exposed soil surfaces of planting areas except turf areas, creeping or rooting groundcovers, or direct seeding applications where mulch is contraindicated.