



**NORTH
TEXAS
MUNICIPAL
WATER
DISTRICT**

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Summer is The Time to Monitor the Moisture of Soil Around Your Home's Foundation

Drip irrigation systems and soaker hoses and help maintain the proper soil moisture

WYLIE, TX – July 28, 2016: Despite occasional showers over the past few weeks, the soil around many homes in North Texas is beginning to dry out, and in some cases, pull away from foundations which can lead to costly repairs. Homeowners are advised to check their home's foundation and consider using drip irrigation systems or soaker hoses to keep soil at the proper moisture level.

The amount of water needed to maintain your home's foundation could be different from the water needs of your lawn. Texas A&M AgriLife Research & Extension Center in Dallas recommends using drip irrigation systems or soaker hoses as the prepared method for foundation maintenance. Most North Texas Municipal Water District (NTMWD) consumers may water their lawns, if necessary, up to twice per week when supplemental watering is needed. Check with your city for specific watering guidelines.

"It's important to remember that you are maintaining the moisture in the soil around your foundation and not the concrete of the foundation itself," said Patrick Dickinson, a licensed irrigator with Texas A&M AgriLife Research & Extension Center. "In my professional opinion, planting, watering, and maintaining a landscape along with the use of mulch around your foundation is best. Think of it as living insulation around your home," Dickinson added.

When it is not possible to maintain that "living insulation" around the house, Texas A&M AgriLife Research & Extension Center and NTMWD recommend that drip irrigation systems or soaker hoses be placed approximately 8-inches from the foundation. Water should be allowed to drip slowly.

"Drip irrigation systems or soaker hoses are an efficient way to deliver water needed for foundation watering," said Denise Hickey, Water Resource Program and Public Education Manager for NTMWD. "Use a moisture meter or visually check to make sure you are not overwatering," Hickey added.

For more information about maintaining the proper soil moisture around your foundation, visit the Texas A&M AgriLife Research & Extension Center website at <http://dallas.tamu.edu>. For information about water conservation, visit the North Texas Municipal Water District at www.NTMWD.com or NTMWD WaterIQ at www.northtexaswateriq.org.

About NTMWD

The North Texas Municipal Water District is a regional wholesale provider of water services for approximately 1.6 million residents in the north Texas counties of Collin, Dallas, Denton, Fannin, Grayson, Hopkins, Hunt, Kaufman, Rains, and Rockwall – a service territory covering 2,200 square miles. In addition to water treatment and delivery, NTMWD also provides regional wastewater treatment and solid waste disposal services. As a conservation and reclamation district and political subdivision of the State of Texas, rates for services are set at cost, no profits are included, and no taxes are collected. For nearly 65 years, our vision has been “Regional Service Through Unity ... Meeting Our Region’s Needs Today and Tomorrow.” NTMWD prides itself as leaders in water quality and environmental protection as it provides essential services that are the foundation for the success and economic vitality of one of the fastest-growing regions in the U.S. For more information, visit NTMWD.com.

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