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## **Landscape Watering Guidelines**

Thank you for choosing Vive Exterior Design to install your new landscaping. You have made an investment that will enhance your home and property, so we want to offer some general guidelines to help keep your plantings looking their best. We will provide the plantings with the initial watering upon installation, so you can delay any watering for 2-3 days.

### **Factors to Consider before Watering:**

- Plant Type (*large trees vs. smaller shrubs*)
- Soil Conditions (*clay soils vs. amended or sandy soils*)
- Exposure (*protected areas vs. high sun and wind exposure*)
- Weather Conditions (*cool, wet spring and fall vs. hot humid summers*)
- How Long Established (*duration plant material has been planted and cared for*)

### **Determining Water Needs:**

Our plants typically arrive in one of two ways: balled and burlapped or container. Since these plant roots dry out faster than the soil around them, it is important to monitor soil moisture. The best way to monitor soil moisture:

- Pull back the mulch around the base (stem) of the plant.
- Using your hand dig down 2-3" into the soil, being careful not to disturb the root system.
- Cool, moist soil will not require any additional watering. Hard crumbling soil needs water.

### **How Should I Water:**

Once the conditions have been evaluated it is time to water the plant material. Use a slow, deep watering method for the best results. This method allows deep water saturation which encourages wide-spread root development:

- Lay an open end garden hose at the base of the plant material
- Turn the water on to a slow trickle
- Allow water to soak the entire area around the root ball of the plant

**Duration:**

- Shrubs, perennials, & grasses (*1-7 gal.*): water 3-5 minutes every 3-5 days
- Large shrubs & small trees (*15 gal.-1.5"*), evergreen trees (*6-8'*): water 20 minutes every 3-5 days
- Medium trees (*1.5"-2.5"*) & evergreen trees (*8'-12'*): water 30-45 minutes every 4-7 days
- Large trees (*3"+*) & Evergreens (*10'+*): water 45-60 minutes every 4-7 days

**Additional Tips:**

- Mulch to keep roots cool and reduce moisture loss through evaporation. To help reduce pests and disease, make sure you don't pile mulch around the base/stem of plant
- If it rained for 1 hour its possible there still wasn't enough water provided to the new plant, so we recommend determining the plant's water needs before eliminating a day in your watering regimen
- Remember, rarely does a plant die overnight. If you watch for signs of distress and follow these guidelines it will help ensure a quality product and allow you to enjoy the full potential of the plant materials