

Seven Things You Must Know Before Hiring a Lawn Sprinkler Service

Introduction

There is a reason why owning your own home is a large part of the American Dream. For one thing, homeownership is an investment in the future, both in a financial and personal sense. Financially, you build equity in the property as you pay your mortgage. This means that, as time goes on, you own a larger and larger share of the property and, as the value of your home appreciates, the value of your percentage of ownership increases, as well. Personally, you have a place that you can call you own. It's a piece of land that you control. It's yours to do with as you see fit. The piece of mind this ownership brings is at least as valuable as the monetary value of the land itself.

In terms of controlling the look and feel of a home, one of the things most homeowners insist upon is upkeep. And, as we all know, a home requires a great amount of upkeep, inside and out. The amount of maintenance work alone is enormous. One of the most labor intensive tasks involved in outdoor home maintenance is lawn care.

Human beings are naturally attracted to a well-maintained lawn. It is thought that, visually, a nice lawn instinctually reminds us of the savannahs and parklands that were a part of our ancestor's original abode. This may be why a beautiful lawn is an incredible asset to any home. It provides a space and a place for your family to relax and recreate while outside. It also provides a stunning visual counterpoint to the architecture of your home. If your home is a painting, your lawn is the backdrop. However, it is a backdrop that requires a large amount of time, money and sweat to properly maintain.

One way to reduce the amount of maintenance involved in caring for your lawn is to install a home sprinkler system. A home sprinkler system automatically waters your lawn on regularly predetermined schedule. This means that you don't ever have to lift a finger to water the lawn yourself.

There's no more hauling garden hoses, attaching sprinkler heads or remembering to move the sprinkler once you've set it in place. Your lawn's watering needs are met automatically, even if you forget. The result is a more beautiful, healthier lawn, plus you have more time to do the things you really want to do.

A reputable lawn sprinkler installation service can easily install a home sprinkler system that's right for your home. Given the importance of your lawn to the value and look of your home, it's important to choose a lawn sprinkler service that is the right fit for your needs. Here are seven things that you must know before hiring a lawn sprinkler service. Keep these things in mind when selecting a service and you will go a long way towards guaranteeing that your lawn and your bottom line will both be greener.

1. Not All Sprinkler Installation Services Are The Same

Once you decide on installing a home sprinkler system, you have to choose a lawn sprinkler installation service. You want to make sure that the installation service you choose is the best one possible for your particular needs, situation and budget. It's important to keep in mind when making this selection that not all lawn sprinkler installation services are the same.

One of the primary things to ask any installation service is whether they are fully licensed and insured. This is important because both licensure and insurance coverage protect you, the consumer, from harm, both financial and personal.

When a business is licensed under local law, it means that it has taken the necessary steps to be legally in business. These steps may include, depending on the locality, incorporation, business inspection, proof of insurance and background check. In some localities, it may also include proof of certification in the profession in question - in this case lawn sprinkler installation. You are obviously more at risk dealing with a business that isn't licensed. If they can't be bothered following the law, how are they going to treat you as a customer?

Proof that an installer is fully insured is equally important. A reputable sprinkler installer will carry full liability insurance. This type of insurance provides coverage for damage to property and injury to persons. So, if an employee or contractor of the installation service causes any damage or injury during the installation process, you and your family are protected.

Sprinkler installation companies can also be bonded. What this means is that should the installer be unable to complete their contract to install your sprinkler system, the company providing the bond to the installer will be obligated to either find another installer to complete the job or fully compensate you for any money you have already paid out to have the job done.

Finally, ask what type of warranty the lawn sprinkler installation service provides. Obviously the longer the warranty, the better. A good installer will typically offer a three to five year warranty on parts and labor and a much longer warranty, sometimes as much as 30 years or longer, on sprinkler system piping. Make sure you get the best warranty you can.

2. Prices Can Be Different From One Lawn Sprinkler Installer To The Next

When you begin looking for a lawn sprinkler installer, you may notice that the prices different installers charge, for even the same systems, can vary quite a bit. This fact can be disconcerting to the average buyer, since it may be hard to determine what accounts for these differences in price.

One of the the main contributors to price is the system being installed, as well as the the size of the lawn that sprinkler system will cover. The price of any given system will increase with the size of the lawn being serviced. Additionally, price is influenced by the shape of a lawn, as well. Non-linear or non-geometrical lawns come with a larger price tag. This occurs because the sprinkler installer must expend more time, parts and labor dealing with an asymmetrical lawn.

Another factor that influences price is the type of system. There are a lot of choices available. Some choices are more basic and others come with all the bells and whistles. A reputable lawn sprinkler installer can discuss these choices with you so that you get the best bang for your buck with the system you ultimately choose.

Ultimately, cheaper is not better. As with everything in life, you get what you pay for. Remember, that the installation of a lawn sprinkler system is a major improvement to your home, one that adds to its value. Your lawn sprinkler installer can help you balance cost with function so that you get the system you need.

3. How To Tell The Difference Between Poor Workmanship And A Quality Job

It can be hard for the average homeowner to tell the difference between a quality lawn sprinkler system installation and one that is subpar. Obviously, the difference between the two types of jobs is an important one. After all, no one wants to pay for poor workmanship.

We all know that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. This is true of you lawn sprinkler installation. One of the easiest ways to know that your sprinkler system is properly installed is to obtain a guarantee that covers the installation before the system is even in the ground. A good lawn sprinkler installer will offer you an upfront guarantee that covers installation, as well as the parts and labor to repair any problems. Don't think of purchasing a sprinkler system without some type of guarantee.

When it comes to the job itself, a quality installation is done quickly and with a minimum disruption. It causes minimal damage to your existing lawn, if any. Most importantly, it works as it was designed to work, without mechanical problems or leaks. Poor workmanship produces the opposite result. Choosing an experienced lawn sprinkler installer, increases the odds that you will receive a quality installation with your system.

4. How To Check The Reputation Of A Lawn Sprinkler Service And Obtain Proof Of Quality Service

We're fortunate to be living in the information age. The info we need is usually at our fingertips and, as we all know, information is power. When it comes to checking on the reputation of a lawn sprinkler service that you may be considering, put that power to you advantage.

One of the easiest ways to do this is by searching for the service in question on a crowd-sourced review service like Yelp, Citysearch or Angieslist. These websites can often give you a very good, but general, idea of how previous customers of the service you're considering felt about the treatment they received. Remember, these sites can only provide you with a general overview, since they are crowd sourced and largely unmoderated. Use them cautiously and only as a jumping off point.

A more direct method of checking on the reputation of a lawn sprinkler installation service is to go directly to that service's previous customers in your community. You can do this by word of mouth, asking co-workers, friends and family who may have used the service before. You can also ask the owner or management of the service itself. A installation service will be more than willing to provide you with the contact information of previous satisfied customers.

5. What You Must Do To Prepare For Having A Lawn Sprinkler System Installed

There are a couple of things that you need to do to get ready for the installation of your lawn sprinkler system. First of all, the installer is going to have to shut off your water in order to complete the installation. They will make sure that your water is off for the shortest amount of time possible, but you should make sure that no one in your household uses the bathroom or any appliance that uses water, such as a dishwasher, during his time. It's also helpful if your grass is mowed prior to the installation of your system. Shorter grass makes for shorter installation times, as well as keeping overall damage to a

minimum. Finally, be prepared not to use your lawn or yard on the day of installation. It's best to keep children and pets well out of the way of the installers so they can do the best job for you.

6. How To Negotiate The Best Price For The Lawn Sprinkler System You've Chosen

It's always possible to negotiate for the best price possible for the lawn sprinkler system you've chosen. It all depends on the variables. One of the biggest of these variables is the season when you want your sprinkler system installed. You may find that the sprinkler installation service you're considering is willing to offer you a price break if you're willing to have your system installed in late fall, after your lawn has gone dormant. This is because, in many areas of the country, lawn sprinkler installation is a seasonal business. Sprinkler systems can't be installed after the ground freezes. As a result, business gets slower, as the weather gets colder. Therefore, if you're willing to wait until the end of the growing season for your installation, you may be able to negotiate a better overall price.

7. Other Vital Questions To Ask Before Hiring A Lawn Sprinkler Installation Company

You are trusting the health of your lawn, as well as the value of your home, to the installation company you choose. Could anything be more important? Therefore, when selecting an installation company, make sure you ask the tough, but necessary, questions that will insure the sprinkler system you select is the right one for you. Any sprinkler installation service worth its salt will be more than willing to provide forthright answers to these questions.

First off, ask the service for references. A good installation company will be able to provide you with the contact information for previous satisfied clients. Get in touch with these people. Ask them about the company's performance. Ask them whether they would recommend the company to others. If previous clients have good things to say about the installation service, you can be more confident in choosing that company to install your sprinkler system.

Also ask the owner or management of the company about their business. How many installations do they handle a year? Are they a full-time sprinkler installer? Are they available to do the work on a day that is convenient to you? Why and how did they get involved in the sprinkler installation business? Again, the answers to these questions will help you select a lawn sprinkler installation company that is the best fit for your needs.

Conclusion

In conclusion, a lawn sprinkler system is a major improvement to the value of your home, as well as your ability to enjoy your home. It makes sense, when considering having a lawn sprinkler system installed, to choose the lawn sprinkler installation service that's right for you, your home and your budget. The time and money you save by making the right choice will provide you with a greener future.