


Four Tips to Winterize Your Irrigation System



Is your drip irrigation system prepared to handle the winter chill?

When the temperature drops, the water sitting in driplines and sprinklers can freeze, expand, and burst—potentially destroying the components in your drip system. Get prepared with these four tips to winterize your drip system and prevent damage to your lines.



Tip #1

Turn off water supply to the system

Turning off the water supply will prevent water from being trapped in the system, freezing, and damaging components throughout the line. Wrap the main water valve with insulation to protect from freeze. Common insulation materials include foam insulation tape and plastic bags.



Tip #2

Turn off timer

Remove the water timer from the water source before the temperatures drops to 32° F/0° C . You should also remove the batteries to prevent corrosion, and store the timer in a cool, dry place. By bringing in your water timer and preventing it from freezing, you can extend the life of your product.



Tip #3

Drain water out of existing lines

To drain water out of irrigation lines, open the drain valves or remove plugs at the end of the system in each zone. You will also need to open any backflow valves to help flush the line. Then, lift tubing to drain out residual water to remove any water lingering in the lines or irrigation components that could potentially freeze.



Tip #4

Insulate above-ground components

Above-ground components to consider insulating include water supply shut-off valves, backflow valves, and exposed pipes. You can use common insulation materials including foam insulation tape and plastic bags or foam pipe insulation. Insulation provides a barrier between the cold and the components.

Proper installation and routine maintenance of an irrigation system can help extend the life of the system, preserve its performance, ensure your system is ready when warmer temperatures arrive.