

How can I tell if my irrigation system is leaking?

Here are some signs that your irrigation system might be leaking. Be sure to repair all leaks soon after they are discovered to help you save water and money!

- ◆ **You discover broken sprinkler heads on your lawn.** Sprinkler heads can be damaged by lawn mowers or vandalism. Be sure to check your system monthly or weekly as broken heads can result in significant water loss.
- ◆ **Your irrigation system has a weak output and you observe that you are not getting coverage from sprinkler head to sprinkler head.** Fixing a leak will make your system operate more effectively, increasing water pressure and output.



Leaks can be costly! Repair leaks promptly.¹

- ◆ **You notice brown spots on your lawn.** This may be occurring because you are not getting adequate coverage due to a leak in a sprinkler head or a water line.
- ◆ **The lowest sprinkler head in your system leaks constantly long after the system has turned off.** Some low head drainage occurs after your system has run, but you should not observe an ongoing problem. You can minimize low head drainage by installing check valves in your sprinkler heads and lines.



Check your sprinklers if you notice anything out of the ordinary!²

- ◆ **Your water meter has a continual slow spin.** If you have ruled out all possible leaks inside your home (such as toilet or faucet leaks) a slow spin may be due to a leak in your irrigation system.
- ◆ **You observe wet or soggy spots in your lawn.** This could be due to an underground break in your irrigation line. Sometimes the leak can be large enough to cause the turf to “float” on the surface. If you have ruled out surface water drainage issues, a leak could be your problem.

- ◆ **Your meter or valve boxes are continually filled with water.** Again, if drainage issues have been ruled out, a leak could be the issue at hand!
- ◆ **You have higher water bills than normal during the summer.** First, be sure that you are not overwatering your landscape by setting your controller to run the system too long or too often! If you notice that your bills are considerably higher than usual, you may want to do some leak detection.

For more information about irrigation, visit the Irrigation Association website at www.irrigation.org.

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