




# Irrigation System Check-up





Keep your landscape looking its best by inspecting your irrigation system at the start of each season. Use our handy checklist to catch common issues early.

## To get started:





1. Turn on each zone of your irrigation system.
2. Walk through your yard one zone at a time.
3. Write down each station you found an issue on.

Watch our video on how to [Tune up your irrigation system](#) and visit our [Outdoor Irrigation Tips](#) webpage for more resources.

Station(s)	Issue	Description	What to do
	<b>Broken sprinkler or clogged sprinkler nozzle</b> 	Sprinkler bodies can easily get broken from maintenance practices or vandalism. Nozzles can get clogged by dirt, lawn trimmings and other debris.	Replace sprinkler body or nozzle if broken. Flush out sprinkler to clear blockages.
	<b>Overspray</b> 	Spray patterns can come out of alignment and need their arcs (angle of coverage) or radius' realigned.	Depending on the sprinkler nozzle, you may need to use a flathead screwdriver or a brand specific sprinkler tool to make the adjustments.
	<b>Tilted or sunken sprinkler head</b> 	Sprinkler heads can tilt over time and cause poor irrigation uniformity.	Dig out and realign sunken heads. For heads below grade, raise the sprinkler so that the cap of the sprinkler body is flush with the turf.

Station(s)	Issue	Description	What to do
	<b>Misting</b> 	Misting is caused by high pressure in the irrigation system.	Install pressure regulating sprinkler bodies to reduce pressure and apply water more evenly. If you have water pressure 80+ PSI, you should install a system wide pressure regulator to lower your current pressure.
	<b>Runoff</b> 	Runoff can occur from an obstruction such as a plant or object, or be from improper controller programming.	Periodically review placement of your irrigation equipment. As plants mature and landscape changes, you may need to move the sprinkler or add a riser. Review controller programming and consider a "cycle and soak" method that allows for shorter run times and more time in between each cycle.
	<b>Clogged, misting, or broken drip equipment</b> 	Drip components can get easily clogged by dirt, lawn trimmings, or other debris.	Flush out emitters to clear blockages. Double check emitters are still connected to drip tubing, and replace any broken or missing components.
	<b>Misaligned drip equipment</b> 	Drip equipment can get moved out of place by people, animals, maintenance practices, or other factors.	Periodically review placement and adjust drip equipment as plants mature and the landscape changes.



Station(s)	Issue	Description	What to do
	<b>Leaking or stuck valve</b> 	Irrigation valves can leak or become stuck in the open position due to debris in the system.	Flush out your valve to ensure the system is clear of debris and the valve is sealed tightly. Consult the manufacturer's website for further details on how to clean your valve. If the valve is still leaking, replacement parts or a new valve may be needed.
	<b>Broken pipe</b> 	Broken pipes can occur due to environmental factors such as tree roots, ground movement, temperature, or come from animals or human obstruction.	Flag the broken pipe and shut off the station or system until it can be repaired.
	<b>Zone not coming on</b> 	If the valve is not turning on with the controller, there could be issues with the wiring.	Review the valve wiring and check for waterproof wire connectors, any water intrusion or improper connections. Remove any debris that may have accumulated.
	<b>Irrigation controller is watering too much or too little</b> 	Smart (weather adjusting) or conventional (non-weather adjusting) controller is not adjusted to account for weather, landscape type, or irrigation equipment.	Return to the Outdoor Home Survey webpage to <i>outdoor test #4</i> for more information on how to check your controller.