

# SPRING IRRIGATION MAINTENANCE CHECKLIST

SPRING IS THE TIME TO INSPECT AND MAINTAIN YOUR SPRINKLER SYSTEM FOR PEAK SUMMER PERFORMANCE AND EFFICIENCY. HERE'S WHAT TO DO:

- Close all manual drains (if installed) and test-cocks on backflow prevention device (likely left open when sprinkler system was drained last fall).
- Slowly open the main shut-off valve, allowing the piping between it and the backflow prevention device to fill with water.
- Pressurize the mainline from the backflow prevention device to the control valves.
- Ensure backflow prevention device has been tested by a state-certified tester. Contact your water provider for specific information on rules and regulations - be sure to ask for the cross connection or backflow specialist.
- Run the entire sprinkler system, one zone at a time. As you do this;
  - Check for signs of leakage from damaged sprinkler heads or broken piping. Repair leaks right away.
  - Check for accurate spray patterns. Adjust your sprinklers so they water your landscape and not sidewalks or pavement.
  - Adjust sprinklers that have sunken or become misaligned and ensure that spray isn't blocked by plants or other obstructions.
  - Clean clogged nozzles, filters and sprinkler heads.
- Verify the programming of irrigation controller. Make sure you don't have excessive zone run times, extra active programs or start times, that can lead to unintentional overwatering.
- Sign up for the Weekly Watering Number at [regionalh2o.org](https://www.regionalh2o.org).
- Take the worry out of scheduling by installing a WaterSense labeled weather-based irrigation controller and take advantage of local rebates.