

Winterizing Your Irrigation System: A Guide



Section	Description	Key Points
Introduction	An overview explaining the importance of winterizing your irrigation system to prevent damages during the colder months.	Protect pipes from freezing and expansion, avoid costly repairs, and ensure system readiness for spring.
Why Winterization is Crucial	Details the necessity of removing water from the system due to freezing temperatures.	Freezing water expands by 9%, causing pressure that can crack pipes, valves, and sprinkler heads.
Gathering Tools	Steps to prepare the necessary tools for winterization.	Needed tools include a flat-head screwdriver, a wrench, safety glasses, and, optionally, an air compressor with a pressure regulator gauge.
Draining the System	Explanation of methods for removing water from the system.	Methods include manual drain valves, automatic drain valves, or compressed air blow-out.
Insulating Components	Instructions on insulating exposed parts of the system to prevent freezing damage.	Wrap backflow preventers and above-ground pipes with foam insulation tape or self-sticking tubes.
Preparing the Controller	Steps to protect and set the irrigation controller during winter.	Set to "off" or "rain mode" and protect outdoor controllers with weather-resistant bags or move indoors.
Post-Winter Inspection	Guide to inspect and maintain the system after winter's end.	Check for leaks, test zones, adjust sprinkler heads, and ensure proper operation before full use.
Final Notes	Encouragement to winterize regularly to protect your system and save money on repairs.	If unsure, consult a professional for assistance with the process.